

**MINUTES OF PERMANENT SECRETARY GROUP MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY  
8 OCTOBER 2004 IN ROOM GD14, STORMONT CASTLE,  
AT 8.45 am**

**Present:** Nigel Hamilton  
Derek Baker  
Will Haire  
Don Hill  
Gerry Lavery  
Andrew McCormick  
Aideen McGinley  
Gerry McGinn  
Stephen Quinn  
Bruce Robinson

**In Attendance:** Stephen Grimason  
Tim Losty } Agenda Item 3  
Paul Sweeney }  
Pauline Boyle (Secretary)

**Apologies:** Clive Gowdy  
John Hunter  
Stephen Peover  
Alan Shannon  
Pat Toal  
David Watkins

**1. Minutes and Summary**

Two minor amendments were received to the Minutes of 1 October.

**2. Matters Arising**

Participation in the 2007 Smithsonian Folklife Festival

Dr McGinley spoke to her memo of 6 October to PSG members.

Mr Robinson was totally in favour of participation in this event and he would consider how DETI could put associated events alongside events in Washington around the time of the Smithsonian Festival.

PSG felt that Ministers Smith and Gardiner should be signed up to this event and they should send a joint submission to the Secretary of State. PSG unanimously endorsed participation in this event and to have this on the agenda for the next Good Governance meeting.

### Budget

Dr McCormick gave an update on Budget issues. Presentational and handling issues were discussed for the announcement of the draft Budget on Tuesday 12 October.

### Londonderry Chamber of Commerce

Mr Hamilton reported on a Seminar which he had attended last Monday, organised by the Chamber of Commerce. It was a very good event and he felt the chemistry was good. He was grateful to colleagues in DRD and particularly Paul Sweeney for his comprehensive briefing.

### 3. **NI Bureau Washington**

Mr Hamilton introduced Mr Losty. Mr Losty gave a presentation and background to the work of the NI Bureau.

The purpose of the Bureau is to present NI as a confident, outwardly looking region and develop a relationship with the United States that will be mutually beneficial to trade, investment, visits and exchange learning. Its objectives are to represent NI to the US administration, build relationships with key organisations, concentrate activity on strategic themes, identify and develop US partner regions, work with British, Irish Embassies and devolved administrations and identify areas of policy interests to NI.

The sectors which the NI Bureau contribute to include

- Education and leadership
- Economic Development
- Research and Technology
- Cultural affairs
- Post conflict reconstruction
- Regeneration of towns and cities
- Enhancing civil relationships

Mr Losty reported that DEL, Invest NI and DARD have already visited the Bureau and he hopes to meet with these Departments over the next couple of weeks while he is in Northern Ireland.

PSG felt it was very important to have integration of activity with Invest NI and have more active working relationships. The Bureau had very valuable linkages to work in DEL, DARD, DCAL and DHSSPS and also with Universities. The Bureau is presented as a professional organisation and could provide a good building block between US and NI. PSG members were

asked to consider if they would like Mr Losty to talk to their Senior Management Teams while he is here in Northern Ireland. If so they can contact Paul Sweeney's office to make arrangements.

#### 4. **Tour de Table**

- (a) Mr Hamilton is keen to chair a meeting on the current state of play on the proposed **multi-sports stadium**. He would like to invite Paul Sweeney and Chris Stewart from OFMDFM and Tony Whitehead from SIB to give a presentation to PSG. PSG agreed and their preferred date is 22 October.

**[Action: Secretary]**

- (b) Mr McGinn has received an invitation from Des Speed, Lagan Group to a NI **Public Service Reform** dinner. Others in various Departments had also received invitations. Dr McCormick agreed to represent PSG at this dinner.

**[Action: Dr McCormick]**

- (c) Mr McGinn reported that **Laurel Hill School** would be taking definitive strike action.
- (d) Mr McGinn gave feedback from **NI Education & Library Board Conference** last week.
- (e) Mr Hill reported that the flu vaccination programme is back on course. DHSSPS will take action on procurement before next year.
- (f) Mr Quinn reported that David Sterling will meeting Eleanor Gill, General Consumer Council today re **Water Reform**.
- (g) Mr Quinn will meet with Alan McClure and Rick Reinhard re Ilex and the **Memorandum of Understanding** soon.
- (h) Mr Robinson attended the new **Social Economy Project** in Derry on Thursday.
- (i) Mr Lavery reported **Forestry and Timber Naturally Wood** event would be launched on 12 October at national level.
- (j) Dr McCormick reminded colleagues that policy initiatives with resource implications must be agreed with DFP before going to Ministers.