

**SUMMARY OF PERMANENT SECRETARY GROUP MEETING – FRIDAY
10 OCTOBER 2003 IN STORMONT CASTLE**

Present: Nigel Hamilton (Chair)
Clive Gowdy
Will Haire
John Hunter
Andrew McCormick
Aideen McGinley
Gerry McGinn
Stephen Peover
Stephen Quinn
Bruce Robinson
Alan Shannon
Pat Toal
David Watkins
Linda Brown

In Attendance: Rosalie Flanagan (Item 5)
Pauline Boyle (Secretary)

1. The minutes of the meeting of 26 September were agreed.

2. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

3. **HR Agenda**

Minuted separately.

4. **Non-Executive Directors**

Deferred to next week's meeting.

5. **Tour de Table**

Rosalie Flanagan joined the meeting to give an update on a arrangements if an Election is called. Mrs Flanagan has written to Departments and an update on the policy and legislative programmes has been co-ordinated. Mrs Flanagan will keep Departments informed.

Andrew McCormick gave an update on the Budget.

Aideen McGinley met with the Chairs and Chief Executives of the New Opportunities Fund and the Community Fund and a composite report will be ready in November.

Aideen McGinley's memo dated 8 October on Young People's Fund and Review of the National Lottery was tabled. Aideen reported an excellent response from Departments. PSG approved the draft NI insert to the Policy Directions for the Young people's Fund and noted the latest position on the Review of the National Lottery. Aideen will also contact Stephen Leach to obtain an NIO viewpoint.

[Action: Dr McGinley]

Clive Gowdy reported that a resolution of the Social Workers' dispute was close.

Stephen Quinn reported John Spellar made an announcement on 7 October re Water Reform.

Stephen Quinn queried career development profiles. Mr Hamilton will write to Permanent Secretaries next week after NIO have considered.

[Action: David Watkins]

Stephen Quinn – The invitation to Mr Hamilton and senior colleagues from a number of Departments to meet Civic Regeneration Forum in Derry was discussed.

Alan Shannon reported the Director of North East Institute has retired.

Alan Shannon reported on an Opportunity Now event to be held on 15 October in Belfast.

Gerry McGinn reported that the relocation of Foyle and Londonderry College to a greenfield site on the Waterside has been approved.

Stephen Peover and Stephen Quinn reported they had dinner with Katherine Day, Director General, Environment, European Commission, Brussels on Thursday evening, 9 October. It was a very good occasion with significant positive impact.

Pat Toal reported DARD launched a consultation document on the Mid-Term Review of CAP Reform last Wednesday, 8 October and reported good feedback.

Bruce Robinson gave an update on gas price issues and disputes.

Will Haire reported on the launch of the Ilex Urban Regeneration Company on 9 October by Mr Spellar and Mr Pearson, and noted the continuing work required in this area.

David Watkins reported that NIO had received four reports from Judge Cory on Tuesday, 7 October.

David Watkins raised the issue of bonfires, which currently lacked regulation and also has implications across DOE, DRD, DSD, DETI and DHSSPS. It was agreed that Stephen Peover would establish a working party, to include NIO, to consider future handling. **[Action: Stephen Peover]**

Nigel Hamilton gave feedback from Autumn Sunningdale.

The retirement dinner for Pat Carvill's retirement was confirmed for Monday 20 October. Further details would be sent in writing.

Nigel Hamilton had been invited by Denis Licence to sit on Board of Business in the Community and PSG were content.

PAULINE BOYLE

17 October 2003