

## **SUMMARY OF THE SENIOR MANAGEMENT MEETING**

**ON 11 JUNE 2003**

**PRESENT:** Mr Haire  
Ms Flanagan  
Mr Grimason  
Ms Bunting  
Mr McCartney  
Mr Stewart  
Mrs Cummins  
Dr Mulligan  
Mr McKervill  
Mr Johnston  
Mr Vincent  
Mr Rooney  
Mrs Devlin

**APOLOGIES:** Mr Gray  
Dr Smyth  
Mr Jardine  
Mr McConnell  
Mr Jackson  
Dr Smith  
Mr Shannon  
Mrs Angus  
Mrs McAuley  
Mr May

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr Ferguson (secretary)  
Miss Dullaghan  
Mrs Conlon  
Mrs Clarke  
Mrs Small  
Mrs Miller  
Mr Reid  
Mr Henry  
Mr Redpath  
Mr Culbert

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### **1. E-HR Programme**

Patricia Corbett from the Central Personnel Group (CPG) in the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) gave a presentation to the meeting on the aims and objectives of the NICS wide e-HR programme and the progress that has been made to date.

### **2. Political Developments**

Ms Flanagan summarised for those attending the meeting the current position in relation to the postponement of the election, the dissolution of the Assembly, the continuation of direct rule during the suspension of devolution, the re-deployment of staff from the Northern Ireland Assembly and the legislative programme.

Ms Bunting updated those present about a meeting of British and Irish officials on 10 June to discuss a number of issues arising from the Joint Declaration.

Mr Rooney reported that the Continuity and Change document and a draft speech for the Secretary of State on the same theme had been forwarded to the NIO.

### **3. Tour de Table**

- Mr Vincent updated the meeting on plans to engage consultants to undertake an exercise to identify the interdependencies of mission critical projects currently underway in the NICS. Mr Vincent also reported on plans for taking forward Windows 2000.
- Mrs Cummins reported that the North Belfast Unit had received a number of bids for funding from the Community Capacity Building Programme and that following an investment appraisal of these bids in conjunction with other statutory agencies the allocation of funds should be announced at the end of June.
- Mr Johnston updated the meeting on a number of issues that had been agreed with the Secretary of State around the remuneration, accommodation and status of MLA's following the postponement of the election. Some issues have still to be decided and these are the subject of ongoing discussions. Mr Johnston also reported that Ministers plan to discuss with the political parties a proposal to reinstate the Civic Forum during suspension and that his Division had received a Grade 7 on loan from the Assembly with a further temporary appointment in the pipeline.
- Mr Stewart reported that the announcement of the Commissioner for Children and Young People was imminent and that he expected victims' policy to be major growth area over the next few months.

- Mr McKervill updated the meeting on the web publishing policy and on the Review of Graphic Design services, the initial findings of which would be presented to the Permanent Secretaries Group on 27 June.
- Mr Grimason reported that work on the Secretary of State's forthcoming speech was continuing.
- In Mrs McAuley's absence Ms Bunting reported on a planned meeting with the Minister to discuss European equality legislation and the Single Equality Bill.
- Dr Mulligan updated the meeting on work to develop the New TSN policy following the recent interim evaluation carried out by consultants.
- Mr Rooney updated the meeting on a number of issues including the integrated development fund, the draft policy-making guide and on the need for a review of area based initiatives.
- Mr Haire updated the meeting on a number of issues including the broad reform agenda, the work of the International Fund for Ireland and two recent Internal Audit reports on the Victims Unit and the European Unit.
- Mrs Devlin reported that guidance for departments on access to government during suspension would be issued shortly. Mrs Devlin also reminded colleagues that if an election happens in the autumn it is important that election guidance issues in good time

#### **4. Any Other Business**

The meeting discussed whether the Department was adequately resourced to undertake the programme of work expected during the next 12 to 18 months and whether there was a need for the Departmental Board to prioritise the issues facing the Department.

It was agreed that with the filling of existing vacancies and the assistance of staff on loan from the Assembly there was little to be gained from a prioritisation exercise at this time, however the issue should be re-examined in September.

**5. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 9 July 2003 at 9.30am in the conference room in Castle Buildings.

**MICHAEL FERGUSON**

11 June 2003