

**MINUTES OF PERMANENT SECRETARY GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON FRIDAY 13 AUGUST 2004 IN ROOM GD14, STORMONT CASTLE,  
AT 8.45 am**

**Present:** Nigel Hamilton  
Derek Baker  
Clive Gowdy  
Will Haire  
John Hunter  
Andrew McCormick  
Carol Moore  
Murray Power  
Stephen Quinn  
Bruce Robinson  
Eddie Rooney  
Pat Toal

**In Attendance:** Stephen Grimason  
Robert Beattie } Agenda Item 3  
Norman Caven }  
Debbie Sweeney (Secretary)

**Apologies:** Aideen McGinley  
Gerry McGinn  
Stephen Peover  
Alan Shannon  
David Watkins

**1. Minutes and Summary**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 August were agreed.

**2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**3. NINIS Presentation**

Dr Caven and Mr Beattie introduced the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service. Mr Beattie explained that NISRA has produced a web-based statistical application which provides a central point from which users may access a large range of spatial statistical information. The data held within the NINIS application have been categorised within the National Statistics Themes and also include a 2001 Census Theme. Some of the themes include agriculture, economy, education, health, labour market,

population and transport. The application also incorporates locational data which includes schools, GP and dental practices, hospitals, post offices and libraries. Dr Caven offered presentations to Departmental Boards, on request.

Mr Baker said that DSD was a large user of NINIS as a means of monitoring progress for DSD and the Housing Executive.

#### 4. **ICT Back Office Review**

Chris Thompson introduced his and Mr Jardine's paper on Review of Back Office ICT Service Provision. PSG noted the progress made on the review so far and agreed that further work should be commissioned, specifically work needed to identify boundaries between 'common services' and 'line of business' applications. Mr Thompson informed PSG that a further report would be presented to PSG in October/November.

**[Action: Mr Jardine/Mr Thompson]  
[Secretary to note]**

#### 5. **Industrial Action Update**

Mr Hunter updated PSG on the ongoing negotiations with NIPSA.

Mr Hamilton said he was grateful to those involved in trying to move the negotiations forward.

Colleagues updated PSG on industrial action in their Departments.

#### 6. **Tour de Table**

##### Business Alliance

Mr Robinson reported on the Business Alliance meeting with Ian Pearson and Barry Gardiner, following which Sir Reg wrote to the Ministers endorsing their document and forwarding it for future discussions.

##### Chief Executive SEUPB

Dr McCormick reported on his meeting with Pat Colgan, the new Chief Executive of SEUPB.

Mr Hamilton asked Dr McCormick to invite Mr Colgan to attend a PSG meeting when he takes up his new post in late September.

**[Action: Dr McCormick]**

##### SIB

Mr Hamilton also suggested that David Gavaghan, the new Head of SIB, also be invited to PSG in early September.

**[Action: Mr Hamilton]**

### Fire Service

Mr Gowdy reported on the fire service dispute.

### FOI

Mr Hamilton said FOI would be discussed at next week's PSG.

### PSG Meetings

Mr Hamilton said that he was considering extended PSG meetings in September and October, until lunchtime, to enable in-depth discussions on Reform, Industrial Relations and Structures. Dates would be provided.

**[Action: Secretary]**

**[PSG to note]**

**DEBBIE SWEENEY**  
**17 August 2004**