

**SUMMARY OF OFMDFM DEPARTMENTAL BOARD MEETING
ON 13 JANUARY 2003**

PRESENT: Mr Haire, Mr Gray, Ms Flanagan, Mr Jardine,
Mr McConnell, Mr Grimason, Mrs Bunting,
Mr McCartney, Mrs Angus.

IN ATTENDANCE: Miss Dullaghan, Mr Ferguson (Secretary).

APOLOGIES: Mr Hamilton, Dr Smyth.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Departmental Board meeting on 6 January 2003, as amended, were noted and agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Service Delivery Agreement – Quarterly Return

The Board noted that the SDA Quarterly Return would be tabled for discussion at the meeting on 20 January. Mr Haire asked Directors to ensure that quarterly update reports were submitted in good time for the meeting.

Joint Board meeting – OFMDFM and NIO

The Board noted that a meeting between the OFMDFM and NIO Departmental Boards had been arranged for Thursday 23 January 2003 at 11.30am in Castle Buildings.

3. Standing Items

a) Direct Rule including Assembly Issues

Ms Flanagan updated the Board on a number of issues including the political talks, the nomination of political advisers and the legislative programme.

Ms Flanagan also reported that the inter-departmental group had decided to meet once a month instead of their recent practice of meeting once a week.

Mrs Bunting reported that the community relations' policy paper had now been cleared.

The Board noted that Mr Haire would be meeting political advisers on Wednesday and also discussed handling arrangements for an implementation group meeting on 20 January.

b) Staffing and Finance Issues

Mr Haire reminded Board members that he needed their responses to the staffing paper discussed at last weeks meeting sent to him by 20 January and also provided an update on December monitoring bids.

c) Information Issues

No additional information issues were discussed beyond those identified and noted during discussions on the matters raised under agenda item 3a.

4. Papers

a) Accommodation – Strategic Investment Board

Mr Jardine had submitted a paper to the Board setting out the urgent accommodation needs of the Strategic Investment Board. Mr Jardine outlined the background to his paper and sought the assistance of Departmental Board members to identify suitable office space for SIB in the Stormont Estate. Board members were unable to offer solutions from within their current accommodation allocation and it was agreed that Mr Jardine and Mrs Angus would take this issue forward.

[Action: Mr Jardine / Mrs Angus]

5. Tour de Table

- Mr Haire updated the Board on work being undertaken jointly by OFMDFM and DSD in relation to a public consultation exercise on the development of Portadown.
- Mr Jardine updated the Board on the creation of a Taskforce to assist communities affected by recent announcements of reductions in fishing quotas.
- Ms Flanagan asked if the circulation of notes about personnel issues particularly in other departments could be reviewed as some but not all were reaching her.

6. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed.

7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Departmental Board will be on Monday 20 January 2003 at 10.45 am.

Michael Ferguson

15 January 2003.