

**SUMMARY OF THE OFMDFM DEPARTMENTAL BOARD MEETING
ON 16 JUNE 2003**

PRESENT: Mr Hamilton, Mr Haire, Mr Gray, Ms Flanagan,
Ms Bunting, Mr Grimason, Dr Smyth, Mr McConnell,
Mr McCartney, Mrs Angus, Mr May.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Rooney, Mr Ferguson (Secretary).

APOLOGIES: Mr Jardine

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Departmental Board meeting on 2 June 2003, as amended, were noted and agreed.

2. Matters Arising

The Board noted that three Westminster Public Accounts Committee reports had been lodged in the document library and that the paper on the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages had been circulated to Directors.

3. Standing Items / Current Issues

a) Political Developments

Ms Flanagan updated the Board on a number of issues relating to Parliamentary Questions on North/South issues and on the restoration of funding for the North/South language bodies.

Mr Grimason updated the Board on the potential impact for the Department of the Ulster Unionist Council meeting on the evening of the 16 June.

b) Summer Leave

Mr Haire circulated to Directors a table showing initial returns from senior staff setting out their summer leave arrangements. Mr Haire asked Directors to provide final returns to Mrs Rooney by close of play on 16 June or first thing on 17 June.

[Action: Directors]

4. Papers

a) Programme for Government and Budget 2003

Mrs Angus introduced a paper seeking input from Directors for the Programme for Government and Budget exercise for 2003. Mr Haire stressed the importance of this exercise given that budgets will be allocated for a three-year period and asked Directors to provide their inputs by 24 June.

[Action: Directors]

b) Team Briefing – Departmental Brief

Mrs Angus introduced a paper seeking the assistance of Board members to reduce the volume of material being submitted for the Departmental Brief element of the bi monthly Team Brief. The Board discussed a number of issues around the purpose of the Departmental Brief and, recognising that the Brief contained too much information, agreed to gather the views of staff within their respective Directorates about the sorts of issues they would like to see reflected in it.

[Action: Directors]

c) Resource Accounts 2002/03

Mrs Angus reported that the Department was making satisfactory progress towards the completion of its Resource Accounts for the 2002/03 financial year.

5. Tour de Table

Due to time constraints this agenda item could not be taken.

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 30 June 2003 at 10.45 am.

Michael Ferguson

16 June 2003.