

MINUTES OF PERMANENT SECRETARY GROUP MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 18 JUNE 2004 IN ROOM GD14, STORMONT CASTLE
AT 8.45 am

Present: Nigel Hamilton
Clive Gowdy
Will Haire
Andrew McCormick
Aideen McGinley
Gerry McGinn
Stephen Peover
Stephen Quinn
Bruce Robinson
Alan Shannon
Pat Toal
David Watkins

Apologies: John Hunter

In Attendance: Debbie Sweeney (Secretary)
Dorothy Angus
John Hinds } Agenda Item 3
Julie Cuming }
David Thomson } Agenda Item 4
Derek Lyness }
Linda Brown } Agenda Item 6

1. Minutes and Summary

The Minutes of 11 June 2004 were agreed.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Mr Thomson updated PSG on developments on accounting/accountability issues, namely Accounting Officers' Letters, Professional Finance Functions, role of PEFOs and disclosure of salaries.

5. European Issues including Malta

Dr McGinley presented DCAL's international work, featuring Malta as an example. She explained that Malta has the same Civil Service system as GB

and they have a strong awareness of NI, and have a lot of NI connections. DCAL have worked closely with Malta to raise the profile of NI arts and organisational links and networks. This has promoted a positive image of NI and has built links with other Departments and outside bodies especially NICO.

Mr Toal said that DARD had created strong contacts with Malta through NICO who had used DARD staff as experts helping in veterinary controls and sewage and disposal.

PSG discussed EU secondments and the importance of developing skills and experience to carry out EU related business. It was agreed that Dr McGinley would incorporate EU secondments into Sub-Group C.

[Action: Dr McGinley]

7. **Chevening Seminar**

PSG discussed the Chevening Seminar and agreed the idea. Mr Hamilton agreed to discuss format, attendance and subject matter with Mr Hunter.

[Action: Mr Hamilton]

8. **Tour de Table**

Review of Sub-Groups

Mr Hamilton informed PSG that regular reviews of the Sub-Groups, ASP/NIAO and e-HR were needed. From 2 July the short updates would begin; as SCS issues would be discussed on 2 July, the update will be Sub-Group B.

[Mr Hunter to note]

PSG Meetings

Mr Hamilton advised PSG that substitutes over the holiday period were acceptable.

[PSG to note]

ILEX

ILEX would be discussed at PSG on 25 June.

DEBBIE SWEENEY

21 June 2004