

**SUMMARY OF THE OFMDFM DEPARTMENTAL BOARD MEETING
ON 19 MAY 2003**

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

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

APOLOGIES: Mr Hamilton, Mr Gray, Mr Jardine.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

2. Matters Arising

The Board noted that establishment of a small working group to look at issues for the Departmental conference in September was being referred to the senior management meeting on 21 May for additional nominations.

3. Current Issues

a) Re-deployment of Assembly Staff

The Board discussed the issue of staff from the Northern Ireland Civil Service who are currently seconded to the Assembly. It was noted that Central Personnel Group in the Department of Finance and Personnel were taking the lead on the issue of re-deployment and it was agreed that bids for the use of these staff would be co-ordinated by Corporate Services Division before being submitted to CPG.

Ms Flanagan updated the Board on a meeting to discuss a range of access to government issues, following which it was planned to circulate further guidance for Departments. Ms Flanagan also updated the Board on North/South issues, political advisers and a BIIGC meeting on 20 May.

4. Papers

a) Team Brief

The Board discussed the Team Brief for May 2003 and agreed changes to the text prior to circulation.

b) Service Delivery Agreement Progress Report

The Board noted the contents of the final quarterly progress report for the 2002/03 Service Delivery Agreement. It was noted that the report did not fully explain the context under which the Department had been working for a significant part of the reporting period.

c) Review of Legal Grades

In response to a note from David Ferguson, Director of Corporate Services in DFP seeking a nomination at Grade 5 level for a Customer Group for the planned Review of Legal Grades, the Board agreed to put forward Mrs McAuley as the nominee from OFMDFM.

5. Tour de Table

- Mr Grimason updated the Board on work his Directorate were planning to take forward on the reinvestment and reform initiative;
- Mrs Angus updated the Board on bids received as a result of the latest budget monitoring round;
- Mr Haire updated the Board on the reform agenda and the interview process for the post of Children's Commissioner;
- Mr Rooney updated the Board on a number of issues including the way forward for the Programme for Government, the Integrated

Development Fund, the South Down Taskforce and advertisements for posts in the Economic Research Institute for Northern Ireland;

- Mr McConnell updated the Board on issues facing the Review of Public Administration;
- Dr Smyth updated the Board on the progress achieved at follow meetings arising from the Corporate Governance seminar in April;
- Ms Bunting reported that the OFMDFM Equality Scheme Annual Report would be delayed because of other work pressures including preparation of briefing material for the BIIGC meeting on 20 May.

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 2 June 2003 at 10.45 am.

Michael Ferguson

19 May 2003.