

**MINUTES OF PERMANENT SECRETARY GROUP MEETING HELD ON
19 DECEMBER 2003 IN ROOM GD.10, STORMONT CASTLE, AT 8.45 am –
10.30 am**

Present: Nigel Hamilton
Clive Gowdy
Will Haire
John Hunter
Andrew McCormick
Aideen McGinley
Stephen Peover
Stephen Quinn
Bruce Robinson
Eddie Rooney
Alan Shannon
David Sterling
Pat Toal
David Watkins

In Attendance: Gary Archibald - item 3
Mary Bunting - item 4
John McGrath - item 4
Billy Gamble - item 4
Chris Maccabe - item 4
Paul Sweeney - item 4
Leo O'Reilly - item 5
Debbie Sweeney - Secretary

1. Minutes and Summary

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 December were circulated and agreed.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Organised Crime Presentation

Gary Archibald, Security Policy and Operations Division in the Northern Ireland Office, gave a presentation on Organised Crime.

Mr Archibald outlined the role of the Organised Crime Task Force, the membership of the OCTF and its objectives. PSG noted that the Annual Assessment of the Threat to NI Society from Serious and Organised Crime Collection Plan would be distributed to Departments in January.

Mr Hamilton asked Dr McCormick to ensure that the Fraud Forum was reconvened and PSG also agreed to bi-laterals with Departments.

4. Community Action Presentation

Mr Gamble gave PSG a presentation on Community Activities.

5. Budget

Dr McCormick updated PSG on the current budget situation.

6. Industrial Action Update

Mr Hunter updated PSG on the strike held on 11 December.

7. Northern Ireland Audit Office Reports

PSG agreed in principle to the proposal from C&AG on dealing with NIAO reports not subject to PAC hearings.

8. Tour de Table

Democracy Commission

PSG agreed that invites would be declined.

Annual Report on Sickness Absence in NI Departments

Mr Hunter reported that the submission would be forwarded to Mr Pearson before Christmas for his consideration.

D A SWEENEY