

**MINUTES OF PERMANENT SECRETARY GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2005 IN ROOM GD14, STORMONT CASTLE  
AT 8.45 AM**

**Present:** Nigel Hamilton  
Will Haire  
John Hunter  
Andrew McCormick  
Aideen McGinley  
Gerry McGinn  
Stephen Peover  
Stephen Quinn  
Bruce Robinson  
Pat Toal

**In Attendance:** Mark Browne – DE  
Derek Baker – DSD  
Robson Davison – DEL  
Rosalie Flanagan – OFMDFM  
Stephen Grimason – OFMDFM  
Don Hill – DHSSPS  
Jackie Kerr – OFMDFM  
Noel Lavery – DETI  
Richard Pengelly – DFP  
Damian Prince – DCAL  
David Sterling – DRD  
Debbie Sweeney (Secretary)

Agenda Item 4

1. **Apologies:** Alan Shannon

2. **Minutes and Summary**

The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 16 September were agreed.

3. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

4. **Budget**

John Hunter outlined his discussions between DFP officials and Jeff Rooker. At the Good Government meeting, the Secretary of State decided to postpone decisions on the Priorities and Budget until after the Party Conference. He requested that there should be further engagement between officials, with a view to a Ministerial meeting in the week commencing 3 October and a paper for the end of next week, which would reflect further discussions with Departments.

John Hunter said that Jeff Rooker was keen to brief himself on budget issues within other Departments. He is due to be Duty Minister during the weekend of Friday 30 September and would be writing to Ministers to ask them if they agree to him meeting Departmental Finance Officers to gain more budget information.

## 5. **Tour de Table**

### Secretary of State's Speech

Nigel Hamilton asked PSG to thank all colleagues who worked on the speech. John Hunter said the Secretary of State wished the speech to be circulated widely to colleagues (copies of the speech can be accessed on the NIO website [www.nio.gov.uk/grasping-the-opportunity-investing-in-our-future.pdf](http://www.nio.gov.uk/grasping-the-opportunity-investing-in-our-future.pdf)).

### Good Government

Rosalie Flanagan updated PSG on the Good Government meeting held on Wednesday 21 September.

The Secretary of State asked that DLD and OFMDFM must ensure that an overall programme of non-devolved and devolved legislation is developed jointly so that a complete and ongoing schedule of requirements is available to Ministers.

### NICS Pay

John Hunter reported the Secretary of State would meet with NIPSA to discuss pay.

### MLA Briefings

Rosalie Flanagan informed PSG that the briefings had been deferred to late October. Derek Baker said he would discuss the Green Paper on Welfare Reform as an issue for MLA briefings with Rosalie.

### Treasury Secretary Meeting

Richard Pengelly updated PSG on the meeting between Des Browne and the Secretary of State.

### Titanic Quarter

Stephen Quinn said he would take forward the Titanic Quarter and arrange a meeting between DFP, DRD and DETI on the way forward.

### Sperrin Lakeland Trust

Don Hill updated PSG on the recent announcement regarding the Sperrin Lakeland Trust and the forthcoming announcement by the Minister setting out proposals for the short and medium term in Sperrin Lakeland to provide safe and sustainable healthcare services.

Chamber of Commerce Lunch

Will Haire asked if colleagues had been invited to the Chamber of Commerce Lunch on 23 November.

Colleagues are asked to check if they have been invited and a decision regarding attendance would be agreed at next week's PSG.

**[Action: PSG]**

**DEBBIE SWEENEY**  
**23 September 2005**