

**MINUTES OF PERMANENT SECRETARY GROUP MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY
28 MAY 2004, IN ROOM GD14, STORMONT CASTLE AT 8.45 am**

Present: Nigel Hamilton
Clive Gowdy
Will Haire
John Hunter
Andrew McCormick
Gerry McGinn
Carol Moore
Stephen Peover
Stephen Quinn
Bruce Robinson
Alan Shannon
Pat Toal
David Watkins

In Attendance: Stephen Grimason
Gary Smyth – Agenda Item 3
Debbie Sweeney – Secretary

Apologies: Aideen McGinley

1. Minutes and Summary

The Minutes were agreed with one minor amendment.

2. Matters Arising

Members updated colleagues on the current Industrial Action within their Departments.

3. Strategic Economic Vision for NI

Mr Robinson outlined the proposal to produce a strategic economic vision of the NI economy. Following discussion, PSG agreed in principle to the proposal with involvement from Departments, a linkage to budgets and further consideration given to the language in the document and the handling of the content.

Mr Robinson agreed to circulate the first draft document to PSG.

[Action: Mr Robinson]

4. Communications Sub-Group

Mr McGinn reported on the communications Sub-Group and the keen interest in the Group report. Mr McGinn reinforced the need for good communication which should be cascaded down from colleagues to staff on a regular basis, starting with PSG and not only in times of crisis.

[Action: Mr Hamilton]

5. **Tour de Table**

Draft Strategy for Children

Mr Hamilton referred to Mr Gamble's submission dated 18 May 2004 and stressed the importance of the draft strategy. Mr Hamilton asked colleagues to raise any issues with Mr Gamble as soon as possible.

[Action: PSG members]

Smoking Ban

Mr Gowdy reported on the increasing support for a smoking ban.

Civil Service Commissioners

Mr Peover reported on his meeting with the CS Commissioners.

MLAs' Presentation

Mr Shannon reported on the DSD presentation to MLAs.

HR Workshop

Mr Hunter briefed PSG on an HR Workshop he attended which was run by Cabinet Office.

Treasury

Dr McCormick briefed PSG on his two meetings with Treasury and his meeting with PEFOs to discuss budget issues.

Website

Mrs Moore reported that the DCAL website had been launched with British and Irish sign language player available.

On Eagles Wing

Mrs Moore reported that the show would be launched later that evening (28 May).

6. Next Meeting

The PSG meeting on 4 June would discuss (a) the Legislative Programme and (b) SCS issues.

D A SWEENEY
1 June 2004