

HCS/1691/03

**SUMMARY OF PERMANENT SECRETARY GROUP MEETING – FRIDAY  
28 NOVEMBER 2003 IN STORMONT CASTLE, GD.10, AT 8.45 am – 10.30 am**

**Present:** Nigel Hamilton  
Robson Davison  
Will Haire  
Andrew Hamilton  
Gerry McGinn  
Stephen Peover  
Bruce Robinson  
Pat Toal

**Apologies:** John Hunter  
Andrew McCormick  
Aideen McGinley  
Stephen Quinn  
David Watkins

**In attendance:** Mary Bunting - Agenda Item 4  
Evelyn Cummins - Agenda Item 4  
David Thomson - Agenda Item 5  
Stephen Grimason - Agenda Item 6  
Rosalie Flanagan - Agenda Item 6  
Linda Brown - Tour de Table  
Debbie Sweeney - Secretary

**1. Minutes**

The Minutes of 21 November were agreed.

**2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### 3. **North Belfast Action Plan**

Mrs Cummins and Mrs Bunting set out the draft Strategic Action Plan for North Belfast; it set out a vision for improvement, with a range of actions proposed or planned to deliver to North Belfast.

PSG endorsed the Action Plan and the work in progress.

Mrs Cummins was to consider the mechanism for approach and systems needed to develop an integrated action plan.

Mrs Cummins to consider the baseline and targets and also prioritise the lengthy list of actions. It was agreed that it was important to work together to maximise benefits and an in-house seminar at which public sector agencies could present their plans for North Belfast was suggested.

It was agreed that Mrs Cummins would update PSG at a later date.

**[Action: Mrs Cummins/Secretary to Note]**

### 4. **Accounting Services Programme**

PSG noted the proposed resources at SCS level which will be needed for the Accounting Services Programme.

It was agreed that Mr Thomson would submit a paper to PSG with the proposed staffing levels required to carry out the programme.

**[Action: Mr Thomson]**

### 5. **Elections Update**

Mr Grimason and Mrs Flanagan updated PSG on the current state of play on the election count.

Guidance on access to Government following the Assembly election would be issued on Monday 1 December.

### 6. **Annual Report on Public Appointments**

Mr Hamilton encouraged PSG to continue to consider appointments for under-represented groups.

**[Action: PSG]**

### 7. **Tour de Table**

#### Pay

Mrs Brown updated PSG on the current state of play regarding Civil Service Pay.

### Springvale Board

Dr Davison reported that DEL would receive the consultant's report on the Springvale Board.

### Costello Report

Mr McGinn reported that he and Mr McKervill would be meeting with Jane Kennedy and the Secretary of State on Monday to discuss the recently received Costello Report.

### Forestry Policy

Mr Toal reported that Ian Pearson would be writing to Ministers on Forestry Policy.

Date of next meeting – 5 December at 8.45 am.

\*Please note PSG will be extended to cover Birthday Honours.

**[Action: PSG to note]**

**DEBBIE SWEENEY**