

**MINUTES OF PERMANENT SECRETARY GROUP MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2008
IN THE GLASSHOUSE, STORMONT CASTLE
AT 8.45 AM**

Present: Stephen Peover – Chair
Will Haire
Michael McBride
Barney McGahan
Aideen McGinley
Malcolm McKibbin
Leo O'Reilly
Paul Priestly
Paul Sweeney

In attendance: Oswyn Paulin
Rosalie Flanagan
Stephen Grimason
John McMillen
Pauline Boyle – Secretary

1. **Apologies:** Bruce Robinson
Andrew McCormick
Stephen Quinn
Alan Shannon

2. **Minutes of Meetings held on 7 November 2008**

The minutes of the meetings have been circulated. Any comments/ amendments to Pauline.

3. **Matters Arising**

Ilex – North/West Issues

DSD and OFMDFM will jointly draw up proposals on North/West issues for discussion at a future PSG meeting.

Draft NICS People Strategy

Alan Shannon will set a date for the PSG Sub-Group on NICS People Management to meet. This group will draw up the Action Plan setting out the priorities for the corporate delivery of the NICS People Strategy as discussed at last Friday's PSG meeting.

PSG's Role

Bruce Robinson hopes to meet with Special Advisers soon to discuss this.

The Twentieth Annual Flax Trust Super Bowl Ball

Leo O'Reilly will represent NICS at the Flax Trust Super Bowl Ball on Friday 6 February 2009.

4. **Executive & Assembly Update**

Rosalie Flanagan said that a number of requests have been received for Executive papers to be considered under urgent procedure.

Permanent Secretaries briefly reviewed the handling of business with Assembly Committees.

5. **Tour de Table**

Student Fees

Aideen McGinley updated on the review of Student Fees

Pay/Bonus

Leo O'Reilly updated on equal pay, progress on payroll and the media coverage of the comments by the Chair of the Finance and Personnel Committee on SCS bonuses. It was agreed that the forthcoming engagement between the Committee and officials would be the appropriate vehicle for any response but that it would also be useful to have available an agreed set of key points on the SCS pay system as a response to any further media coverage.

Council of the European Union Agriculture and Fisheries

Malcolm McKibbin said he would attend the European Union Agriculture and Fisheries Council from 17-20 November. Conor Murphy would attend in place of Michelle Gildernew.

Single Farm Payments

Malcolm reported on the audit on single farm payments.

Conflict Transformation Initiative

Barney McGahan said the Judicial Review on the Conflict Transformation Initiative would begin on Tuesday 18 November.

Belfast Healthy Cities

Michael McBride said DHSSPS would be seeking support from PSG on the Belfast Healthy Cities initiative.

PAULINE BOYLE
14 November 2008