

**MINUTES OF PERMANENT SECRETARY GROUP MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2009 IN THE GLASSHOUSE,
STORMONT CASTLE AT 8.45 AM**

Present: Bruce Robinson – Chair
Derek Baker
Sean Donaghy
Will Haire
Aideen McGinley
Malcolm McKibbin
Paul Priestly
Stephen Quinn
Alan Shannon
Paul Simpson
Paul Sweeney

In attendance: Oswyn Paulin
Eddie Rooney
Rosalie Flanagan
Pauline Boyle – Secretary

1. **Apologies:** Andrew McCormick
Leo O'Reilly
Stephen Peover
Stephen Grimson
John McMillen

2. **Minutes of Meeting held on 6 February 2009**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February were agreed.

3. **Matters Arising**

CBI Annual Dinner

It was agreed that Leo O'Reilly and Paul Priestly would attend the CBI Annual Dinner on 26 March. Bruce Robinson may attend, diary permitting.

4. **Executive & Assembly Update**

Rosalie Flanagan gave a read out of issues discussed at the Executive meeting on Thursday 12 February 2009.

Economic Downturn

Rosalie informed PSG that this agenda item would be tabled as a paper in future. Bruce Robinson informed PSG that FM/dFM had written to three banks, AIB, Bank of Ireland and Northern Bank requesting meetings as part of the Ministers bi-laterals with the banks.

February Monitoring

Departments and Ministers are asked to rigorously examine their spend for the year and have additional information to DFP by close of play on Monday 16 February 2009.

[Action: Permanent Secretaries]

Executive Business in Assembly

Rosalie Flanagan said some Ministers had requested changes to the rota for Assembly Questions. She advised the schedule had to be planned in advance and could not be changed at short notice.

5. Tour de Table

Public Sector Relocation

Aideen McGinley had received correspondence on public sector relocation. DHSSPS and DCAL confirmed they also received this correspondence. It was agreed that any response would need co-ordinated across departments by DFP.

Equal Pay

Derek Baker updated on equal pay.

Spotlight

Will Haire said Spotlight would run a programme soon on Special Education needs.

PAC

Paul Simpson said that Stephen Peover attended a PAC hearing on Thursday 12 February on the PFI Contract for Northern Ireland's new Vehicle Testing Facilities.

Royal Irish Academy

Bruce Robinson said he, Will Haire, Leo O'Reilly and Ossie Paulin met with Professor Nicholas Canney, President of the Royal Irish Academy and some members on 21 October 2008. Professor Canney, through NSMC, asked if Permanent Secretaries would wish to meet or have dinner with him and others sometime end February or end March in Belfast or Armagh. Professor

Canney is focussing on strengthening the RIA's links with key policy makers in the NI administration. Bruce Robinson said he would speak to Mary Bunting, NSMC and if another meeting was felt to be of value it was agreed that the same officials would meet.

[Action: Bruce Robinson]

PAULINE BOYLE

17 February 2009