

**MINUTES OF PERMANENT SECRETARY GROUP MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2009, IN THE BOARD ROOM, CLARE HOUSE
AT 8.45 AM**

Present: Bruce Robinson – Chair
Doreen Brown
Will Haire
Gerry Lavery
Andrew McCormick
Aideen McGinley
Leo O'Reilly
Stephen Peover
Stephen Quinn
Alan Shannon
Cynthia Smith
Paul Sweeney

In attendance: Sir Gus O'Donnell
Siobhan Benita
Nick Perry
Oswyn Paulin
Rosalie Flanagan
John McMillen
Colm Shannon
Pauline Boyle - Secretary

1. **Apologies:** Stephen Peover
Paul Priestly
Malcolm McKibbin
Stephen Grimason

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2009**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 March were agreed with minor amendments.

3. **Matters Arising**

Sister Cities Conference

Emma Wilson will co-ordinate a response on this in liaison with appropriate Departments.

Election Guidance – European Election

Election Guidance will be on the agenda for the PSG meeting on 27 March.

4. **Executive & Assembly Update**

Executive Business

Rosalie Flanagan said the next meeting of the Executive is scheduled to take place on 26 March 2009.

Assembly Business

Rosalie Flanagan asked Permanent Secretaries to make appropriate arrangements in their Departments to ensure that the list of No Day Named Motions, which is circulated weekly by OFMDFM Assembly Section, is examined carefully by officials in Departments to identify any motions which Ministers would potentially be unable to respond to on genuine procedural or legal grounds. Any such motion should be notified to OFMDFM Assembly Section as soon as possible, with an explanation of the particular circumstances relating to the motion. Rosalie will write to Departments.

JMC(D)

Rosalie said the Joint Ministerial Council (Domestic) met for the first time on 11 March 2009. The next meeting is scheduled for May.

Devolution of Policing and Justice

Rosalie reported that the Devolution of Policing and Justice Bill went through the House of Lords and received Royal Assent on Friday 13 March 2009. It was still to be agreed whether an additional Department would be added.

Security Update

Nick Perry updated on recent events in Northern Ireland. Bruce Robinson suggested and PSG agreed it would be useful if Nick Perry could come back to PSG in 2-3 weeks time.

5. **Sir Gus O'Donnell**

Sir Gus O'Donnell joined PSG as part of his outreach visit programme. Sir Gus gave his perspective on a number of key issues facing the Cabinet Office.

6. **Tour de Table**

Essential Skills Conference

Aideen McGinley asked Permanent Secretaries to ensure that all Departments are represented at HR Director level at the Essential Skills Conference – Leading the Way in the Public Sector, on 25 March at the Ramada Hotel.

PAULINE BOYLE

19 March 2009