

**MINUTES OF PERMANENT SECRETARY GROUP MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 4 AUGUST 2006 IN ROOM GD14, STORMONT CASTLE
AT 8.45 AM**

Present: Nigel Hamilton
Will Haire
Andrew McCormick
Aideen McGinley
Stephen Peover
Nick Perry
Stephen Quinn
Bruce Robinson
Alan Shannon
David Sterling
Paul Sweeney
Pat Toal

In Attendance: Norman Caven
Robert Beattie
Linda Brown
Brian Doherty
Rosalie Flanagan
Stephen Grimason
Debbie Sweeney - Secretary

1. **Apologies:** John Hunter
Gerry McGinn
Nick Perry

2. **Minutes of Meeting held on 28 July**

There was one amendment to the minutes.

3. **Matters Arising**

Political/Assembly Developments

Rosalie Flanagan updated PSG on current political developments and Assembly business.

Stephen Quinn, Will Haire and Aideen McGinley updated PSG on their Evidence Sessions in the Assembly on Economic Challenges facing Northern Ireland.

Bruce said he would be attending an Evidence Session on 8 August.

4. **2011 Census**

Norman Caven outlined the history of the Census and explained that a Census is carried out every ten years. Norman said there was a continuing need for the information provided by the Census to support planning, policy decisions and resource allocations and is a unique source for studying social and economic change.

The next Census will be undertaken in 2011 and, following the evaluation of 2001, there would be new areas for consideration in 2011. They include visitor information, second residence, nature of disability, extended ethnicity, income and extended language question.

PSG discussed inward and outward migration, non-return figures and the use of the website to complete forms.

Nigel said PSG would be very interested in alternative data which looked at numbers of non-nationals and language issues. Robert Beattie said the mid-year estimates had just been published and it contained updated information.

5. **NICS Pay Update**

Linda Brown updated PSG on NICS pay issues.

6. **e-HR**

Linda said she would be meeting PEFOs to update them on e-HR developments.

7. **SCS Management Issues**

PSG agreed the management grid.

8. **Tour de Table**

Milk Prices

Pat Toal said while milk yields had been increasing, the price of milk was falling.

Independent Board Members

PSG discussed the make-up of panel members.

Prince's Trust Concert Invite

PSG agreed that Paul Sweeney would ask Edgar Jardine if he could accept David Dobbin's invite to the concert on 25 August.

[Action: Paul Sweeney]

Rape Crisis Centre

Andrew McCormick updated PSG on the withdrawal of funding from the Centre.

Roads Announcement

David Sterling said David Cairns had made an announcement in relation to a £400 million package of major road upgrades.

CSR

Bruce Robinson said a letter had been received from Stephen Timms regarding CSR.

PSG 11 August

There will be no PSG meeting on 11 August.

DEBBIE SWEENEY

7 August 2006