

**MINUTES OF PERMANENT SECRETARY GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON FRIDAY 10 MARCH 2006 IN ROOM GD14, STORMONT CASTLE  
AT 8.45 AM**

**Present:** Nigel Hamilton  
Will Haire  
John Hunter  
Edgar Jardine  
Andrew McCormick  
Gerry McGinn  
Stephen Peover  
Stephen Quinn  
Bruce Robinson  
Alan Shannon  
Pat Toal

**In Attendance:** Denis McCartney  
Rosalie Flanagan  
Stephen Grimason  
William Duddy - Agenda Item 4  
Greg McConnell } - Agenda Item 5  
Jim McKeown }  
Debbie Sweeney - Secretary

1. **Apologies:** Robson Davison  
Aideen McGinley  
Nick Perry

2. **Minutes of Meeting held on 3 March 2006**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 March were agreed with minor amendments.

3. **Matters Arising**

DCAL Permanent Secretary

Nigel Hamilton said a press release would issue at 11.30 am to confirm that Paul Sweeney had been successful on the DCAL Permanent Secretary competition and would take up his post on 27 March.

Delivery Team

Nigel Hamilton said he was grateful to Departments for their proposals identifying areas which may be funded from all IDF resource.

4. **Paying for Water – Building New Relationships**

Gerry McGinn introduced William Duddy, Director of Customer Services' Water Service. William explained Water Reform was a commitment made by the Secretary of State to the Treasury. The programme will involve new

domestic charges, setting up a new GoCo and new economic and environmental regulatory arrangements. New charges will release up to £300m for other public services by the end of the decade and secure RRI borrowing, currently worth £200m pa. William gave an overview of the Reform and outlined the charging scheme to be introduced. William explained the proposed management of the Reform, including the Customer Communication Strategy and HR issues.

## 5. **RPA Legislation and Timetable Update**

Greg McConnell said the Quango announcement was expected on 21 March. DFP would update the Q and A and circulate.

Jim McKeown said he had issued a request on 7 March for Departments to begin the process of re-examining the proposed timetable before the next steering group meeting, scheduled for 24 March. The Local Government Boundaries Order would be ready for laying at Westminster before the end of March.

Denis McCartney reminded PSG to ensure he is copied into correspondence.

**[Action: PSG]**

George Gray said there were currently 53 Orders which was too many.

## 6. **Reform Update and Masterclass**

Bruce Robinson referred to his note of 8 March on the Northern Ireland Reform Programme. He confirmed there would be monthly updates at PSG. Bruce requested departmental contacts be forwarded to Peter Glynn who would be responsible for updating the Programme and related activities.

### Masterclass

Bruce said the Reform Masterclass was confirmed for 28 March.

Nigel asked that all SCS members to make the effort to attend.

## 7. **Tour de Table**

### Child Protection

Andrew McCormick said that Archbishop Brady and the Northern Bishops would issue a press release on child protection. Shaun Woodward would issue a press release commending the Church's moves to address child protection.

### e-HR

John Hunter updated PSG on the e-HR programme.

### Construction Employers' Forum Dinner

John Hunter said he had received an invite to the dinner on 28 April. Stephen Peover would also attend.

### Crumlin Road Gaol

Alan Shannon said the first meeting of the Crumlin Road Gaol Advisory Meeting had been held.

### Beef Ban

Pat Toal updated PSG on the beef ban decision.

### PSG – 7 April

Bruce Robinson said that PSG would be held at the Invest NI building on 7 April. This would also include a tour of the new building.

**[Permanent Secretaries to note]**

### PSG – Friday 24 March

**Agenda:** Reform Update including Market Research  
Advertising Review update  
followed by RPA Steering Group meeting.

**DEBBIE SWEENEY**  
**20 March 2006**