

**MINUTES OF PERMANENT SECRETARY GROUP MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2006 IN ROOM GD14, STORMONT CASTLE
AT 8.45 AM**

Present: Nigel Hamilton
Robson Davison
Will Haire
John Hunter
Gerry Lavery
Noel Lavery
Andrew McCormick
Aideen McGinley
Gerry McGinn
Carol Moore
Bruce Robinson
Alan Shannon
Cynthia Smith

In Attendance: Denis McCartney
Rosalie Flanagan
Colm Shannon
Mick Cory - Agenda Item 5
Debbie Sweeney - Secretary

1. **Apologies:** Stephen Peover
Nick Perry
Stephen Quinn
Pat Toal
Stephen Grimason

2. **Minutes of Meeting held on 10 February**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 February were agreed.

3. **Matters Arising**

Delivery Team

Nigel Hamilton said that he had written to Departments asking them to identify further and new initiatives, new capital projects and further challenges. Returns were to be forwarded to Russell McCaughey by close of play on Friday 17 February.

Alan Shannon updated PSG on the Minister's meeting with the DUP.

4. **Access to Government Services Project**

This agenda item will be discussed at PSG on 10 March.

5. **Sports Strategy**

Aideen McGinley said work was underway to maximise Northern Ireland's opportunities that the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in London will bring.

Mick Cory said Northern Ireland should be ambitious as to what it wishes to achieve and to realise the impact the Games will have on Northern Ireland.

The Sports Strategy sets out the visions, goals and objectives which will drive the plan forward. There are six key strands to the Strategy – sport, culture, Olympic related events, training and holding camps, economic and business and legacy. Mick explained that to deliver the benefits that the games will bring would require clear political, governmental, business and public leadership. The Minister had taken the lead in developing and maintaining the leadership with NIO Ministerial colleagues and through the Sports Cabinet with UK Sports Ministers. The inclusion of local political parties and active participation by the business community will also be an important factor.

Co-ordination in Northern Ireland will be the responsibility of the Olympics Northern Ireland Task Force (ONITF), made up of a member from DCAL, Sports Council, Sports Institute, Arts Council, NITB, Invest NI, BCC, NI Events Company, business representation, local authority representative and others as required by the Chair.

To lead the ONITF, an Executive Director at SCS level would be required. Mick Cory said he would liaise with CPG to identify a suitable candidate.

[Action: Mick Cory/CPG]

Nigel Hamilton thanked Mick for his briefing and said it was important to maintain the impetus needed to ensure Northern Ireland got the maximum benefits from the Games. He asked Mick to return to PSG at a later stage for a further update.

[Action: Mick Cory]

6. **Legislative Programme**

Rosalie Flanagan referred to her submission of 14 February.

Rosalie asked that Permanent Secretaries obtained Ministers' endorsement to Departments' Second Session and RPA bids by 20 February.

[Action: PSG]

A meeting of the Ministerial Legislation Committee (MLC) will be held on 27 February, at which collective decisions and agreement on the Second Session programme will be sought. Rosalie stressed the importance of Departments working with OLC and the Legislation Progress Unit to maximise the drafting output from the resources which were available.

[PSG to note]

Rosalie asked PSG to reinforce the message that slippage must be avoided in the laying of Orders up to the summer recess to ensure the best possible prospects for all the Orders scheduled for making by July meet this target.

[PSG to note]

PSG agreed the prioritisation of OLC work on Orders in Council for the Second Session and noted that it may be necessary to ask Departments to defer further instructions on non-priority legislation.

Nigel Hamilton noted that DOE had eight Orders, along with the RPA workload. He asked that Cynthia Smith discuss this pressure with Stephen Peover.

[Action: Cynthia Smith]

Rosalie Flanagan said that David Sterling had offered to organise a seminar on lessons to be learned from the Water Legislation. Nigel Hamilton asked Rosalie to organise.

[Action: Rosalie Flanagan]

7. **Tour de Table**

Bird Flu

Gerry Lavery updated PSG on Bird Flu and confirmed that the risk assessment had not changed.

Belfast City Arts Centre

Aideen McGinley said the business case for the Belfast City Arts Centre had been passed.

Postal Dispute

Robson Davison said it was hoped that the dispute would be resolved.

Meeting with the DUP

Robson Davison said he had met representatives from North and West Belfast neighbourhood renewal.

Independent Report

Andrew McCormick said the Independent Report on the death of Janine Murtagh was published on 15 February. The Royal Hospital's Chief Executive made a statement acknowledging responsibility and an unreserved apology.

The Minister extended his sympathy to Mrs Murtagh's family and friends.

e-HR

John Hunter updated PSG on the e-HR Project.

Treasury Pay Guidance 2006

John Hunter said the guidance had been copied to NIPSA. he said the PSG Sub-Group would meet in the near future to discuss the guidance.

IODLunch Invite

John Hunter said he had been invited to an IOD lunch with the Lord Mayor in London.

Leaders' Conference

Nigel Hamilton said that an open invitation had been extended to PSG by Gus O'Donnell to attend a Leaders' Conference on 13 March.

It was agreed to discuss the event at PSG on 24 February.

Ormeau Road/Sydenham Road Flooding

Gerry McGinn said the Report on the road flooding had been forwarded to the Minister.

SIB Conference

Paul Sweeney updated PSG on the North/South Infrastructure Conference.

Sports Stadium

Paul Sweeney updated PSG on the meeting held with Jeff Rooker, David Hanson, DFP, DCAL and OFMDFM on the Sports Stadium.

Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

Carol Moore outlined the contents of the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

Village Area

Alan Shannon said the Minister had made a return to the Village area of Sandy Row.

North West and North East Quarters

Alan Shannon said the two developers had met with the Minister.

Next Week's PSG

Agenda:	Public Sector Pay	-	Bruce Robinson
	Workplace 2010	-	John Hunter
	Domestic Revaluation	-	John Hunter

DEBBIE SWEENEY
20 February 2006