

**MINUTES OF PERMANENT SECRETARY GROUP MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 28 JULY 2006 IN ROOM GD14, STORMONT CASTLE
AT 8.45 AM**

Present: Nigel Hamilton
Robson Davison
Greg McConnell
Andrew McCormick
Gerry McGinn
Stephen Peover
Nick Perry
Stephen Quinn
Bruce Robinson
Alan Shannon
Paul Sweeney
Pat Toal

In Attendance: Anne Blacker - Agenda Item 4
Mick Cory - Agenda Item 5
Brian Doherty
Rosalie Flanagan
Stephen Grimason
Debbie Sweeney - Secretary

1. **Apologies:** Will Haire
John Hunter
Aideen McGinley

2. **Minutes of Meeting held on 7 July**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 July were agreed.

3. **Matters Arising**

BIIGC

Rosalie Flanagan updated PSG on the BIIGC meeting held on 25 July and Assembly business.

4. **Waste Management Presentation**

Stephen Peover introduced Anne Blacker from the Land and Resource Management Environmental Crime Team.

Anne explained that waste crime generated huge illegal earnings for those involved and loss of revenue for government, not to mention the environmental pollution, risk to human health and the damage caused to the legitimate waste industry which cannot compete. Infraction from the EC has already begun for Northern Ireland's lack of control of illegal waste

management operations. The clear up of illegal landfill sites are at present between £30-£50 million.

Anne said that waste crime involves the illegal landfill of waste, running waste treatment or storage facilities without appropriate permission, transporting waste in NI for disposal from ROI (rather than for recycling) under the guise of 'recycling', disguising waste as inert material. Anne said the Environmental Crime Team were working to expand their investigations, change legislation and develop relationships with the PSNI, ARA, DVTA and the media.

Anne explained that waste crime was increasing.

Currently the Team were under-resourced and the nature of the work carried out needed to be reviewed regarding security and welfare of staff.

Anne said consideration needed to be given to resourcing the team, a new enforcement style and the focus on recovery style.

Nigel thanked Anne for her presentation and said that PSG were supportive of the Team's work and understood the challenges they faced. He suggested Anne contact (i) DSD regarding the development investigative officers; (ii) Brian Doherty in relation to legal issues; (iii) Nick Perry regarding HM Revenue and Customs; and (iv) Rosalie Flanagan for North/South guidance.

5. **Smithsonian Update**

Mick Cory updated PSG on the preparations for the Smithsonian Institute's Folklife Festival between 27 June and 8 July 2007 at which Northern Ireland will feature. Northern Ireland's presence will feature

- crafts
- food and drink
- history and heritage
- trades and occupations
- sport
- traditional music and performing arts

Nigel thanked Mick for his progress report and said it was vital that the programme promoted Northern Ireland, and PSG gave Mick their full support.

PSG asked that Mick return later in the year to a PSG meeting devoted solely to the Smithsonian Festival.

[Action: Mick/Secretary]

6. **Shanghai World Expo 2010**

Stephen Quinn said the FCO felt there was a strong case for the UK to have a significant presence at Expo 2010 and that the theme of 'Better City, Better Life' would allow the UK to promote itself as a leading world partner in urban regeneration, sustainable communities, climate change and science and technology.

Stephen said the Foreign Secretary would write to the Secretary of State requesting that Departments consider contributing to the overall funding. It was agreed that the issue would require a substantive discussion at a future PSG meeting.

[Action: Stephen Quinn/Secretary]

7. **Delivering New Funds**

Stephen Quinn, Robson Davison and Greg McConnell updated PSG on delivering new funds, confirming that progress was on track within the agreed timetable.

8. **Tour de Table**

Underspends and Consultants

Bruce said both issues had attracted considerable media attention during the week and were being considered by DFP.

Voluntary Sector

Nigel asked Bruce to take the lead in resolving Voluntary Sector Projects.

[Action: Bruce Robinson]

FOI

Nigel asked Departments to ensure consistency of approach in relation to FOI requests.

[Action: PSG]

Legal Issues

Brian Doherty updated PSG on current legal issues.

Sperrin Lakeland

Andrew said there would be a Press Release issued on the Sperrin Lakeland Trust.

New Chief Executive NHS

Andrew informed PSG that David Nicholson had been appointed as the new Chief Executive of the NHS.

Charities Legislation

Alan said the Charities Legislation had been published.

Liquor Licensing

Alan said plans for the reform of the law on sale and supply of alcohol in Northern Ireland had been set out by David Hanson in a Written Statement to Parliament.

CSA

Alan briefed PSG on the media attention surrounding the CSA.

SEELB

Robson said Maria Eagle met with the DUP to discuss the SEELB.

Next Week's PSG

Agenda: 2011 Census
 HR

DEBBIE SWEENEY
31 July 2006