

**MINUTES OF PERMANENT SECRETARY GROUP MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 15 JUNE 2007
BOARD ROOM, CLARE HOUSE
AT 8.45 AM**

Present: Nigel Hamilton
Will Haire
Andrew McCormick
Aideen McGinley
Gerry McGinn
Malcolm McKibbin
Stephen Peover
Stephen Quinn
Alan Shannon
Paul Sweeney
David Thomson

In Attendance: Adryan Bell } Agenda Item 5
Grainne Creaney }
John McKernan }
Rosalie Flanagan }
Stephen Grimason }
John McMillen }
Oswyn Paulin }
Pauline Boyle - Secretary

1. **Apologies:** John Hunter & Bruce Robinson

2. **Minutes of Meeting held on 8 June 2007**

One amendment was received to the draft minutes of last week's meeting which will be included in final minutes.

3. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

4. **Assembly & Executive Update**

Rosalie Flanagan said Executive Secretariat are preparing papers for the next Executive Meeting on 5 July. Papers need to be with Executive Secretariat three weeks prior to actual Executive meeting to allow time for comments before issuing a final draft for discussion at Ministerial Reps meeting.

She confirmed the NSMC meeting would take place on 4 July and the BIC meeting would be held on 6 July.

Rosalie reported two amendments have been received on the Welfare Reform Bill. She said Ministers should be reminded of the need to support Executive agreed legislation.

Nigel Hamilton suggested Ministers may wish to send a note to welcome the new Ministerial members of the new Irish Government following the result of their Election.

[Action: PSG]

5. **Reform Update**

At the end of the meeting PSG members had a tour of the building which included the “Future @ Work” zone which is now open in Clare House. The future @ work is an evolving concept which gives a glimpse of what the future at work might look like and the benefits Civil Service Reform will bring.

6. **Tour de Table**

PAC Committee - Springvale

Aideen McGinley updated PSG on her appearance at the PAC Committee in relation to Springvale.

Flooding

Nigel Hamilton updated PSG on the events of the past few days in relation to the flooding in various areas. He attended an urgent meeting on Wednesday morning along with Ministers and Departmental Representatives to discuss the handling of the situation. Stephen Peover reported his officials were meeting with Belfast City Council that morning and his Minister had spoken personally to each Council.

Government Skills – Employee Survey

Aideen McGinley reminded colleagues to return the Government Skills Employee Survey questionnaire to her as soon as possible.

[Action: PSG]

Water Review

Gerry McGinn said an Independent Review Panel to consider the future of water and sewerage services was announced this week.

New Hospitals

Andrew McCormick said his Minister had visited Omagh and Enniskillen.

Mental Health & Learning Disability

Andrew also said a report on Mental Health & Learning Disability would issue soon.

Chief Executive Library Board

Paul Sweeney informed PSG that Irene Knox will be appointed as the Chief Executive of the Libraries Board.

Smithsonian

Alan Shannon said his Minister would attend the Smithsonian event.

UPRG

Alan also reported on Ulster Political Research Group.

Ballee Lands

Alan Shannon said agreement had been reached on sale of land at Ballee.

RPA

John McMillen said a paper had issued on RPA for discussion at the next Ministerial Reps meeting.

Lord Mayor's Installation Dinner

It was agreed that Nigel Hamilton, Paul Sweeney and Malcolm McKibbin would attend this event.

Alex Salmond

Nigel Hamilton reported that Alex Salmond, the Scottish First Minister, will visit Northern Ireland on Monday.

Honours

He also reminded colleagues that Birthday Honours would be announced on 16 June.

7. Next Week's PSG

PSG on 22 June will be held in Adelaide House.

The agenda will be:

Future of "Access to Work Scheme"
Workplace 2010

PAULINE BOYLE
15 JUNE 2007