

**MINUTES OF PERMANENT SECRETARY GROUP MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2008
IN THE GLASSHOUSE, STORMONT CASTLE
AT 8.45 AM**

- Present:** Sir Nigel Hamilton - Chair
Will Haire
Andrew McCormick
Aideen McGinley
Leo O'Reilly
Paul Priestly
Stephen Quinn
Bruce Robinson
Paul Simpson
Paul Sweeney
- In Attendance:** Stephen Grimason
Bill McCluggage
Oswyn Paulin
Pauline Boyle - Secretary

- 1. Apologies:** Alan Shannon
Stephen Peover
Rosalie Flanagan
John McMillen

2. Minutes of Meeting held on Friday 1 February 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 February have been circulated. Any comments/amendments to Pauline.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Data Protection Update

Bruce Robinson updated PSG on the NI Data Protection Review. He said DFP would request consolidated action plan lists from Departments over the next few days. A draft report on the review would issue to the Minister on Monday requesting his approval on its release for publication along with the associated press release. The report would then go to Departments on Friday and would be considered by the Executive at the meeting on 28 February.

PSG agreed this way forward.

5. Budget Outcome and Medium Term Financial Outlook

Leo O'Reilly updated PSG on the outcome of the budget and the medium term financial outlook. He reported that Sir David Varney will be visiting Northern Ireland next week to meet Ministers individually in relation to a Second Varney Review.

6. Economic Conference

Stephen Quinn updated PSG on the arrangements for the Economic Conference. He reported the First Minister and deputy First Minister sent "save the date" letters to 200 people on 17 January. Personal invitation packs would issue on 18 February and the conference web site would also go live on that date.

7. Tour de Table

FOI

PSG noted the latest position on FOI issues as set out in David Lammy's memo

NSMC

Sir Nigel Hamilton updated PSG on the NSMC held yesterday. He has written to Mary Bunting, Rosalie Flanagan and Stephen Grimason to thank them for all the arrangements for a very successful event.

Illegal Dumping

Paul Simpson updated PSG on illegal dumping in Fermanagh.

Retirement of Head of the NI Civil Service

Sir Nigel Hamilton reported he will be retiring on 25 April 2008.

Irish Language

Paul Sweeney reported on the Assembly Committee debate on Irish Language.

Belfast Festival at Queen's

Paul also reported funding of £1m from the Ulster Bank had been secured for the Belfast Festival at Queen's.

NI Events Company

Paul updated PSG on the Northern Ireland Events Company.

Arms Length Bodies

Paul reported that DCAL would appear before a PAC hearing on 6 March in relation to Arms Length Bodies.

Eisenhower Fellowship 2009

Paul said he received a letter from David Lavery to identify potential candidates who might be suitable to participate in an Eisenhower Fellowship in the Spring of next year. All Permanent Secretaries had received a letter and it was agreed that each Department would reply separately.

Loughry

Malcolm McKibbin updated PSG on communications courses at Loughry.

RPA Reform

Paul Simpson updated PSG on RPA Reform.

Next Week's PSG

Next week's PSG will be –

IFI Update

Departmental Accountability and Financial Management

Arms Length Bodies

Reform Update

PAULINE BOYLE
12 February 2008