

**MINUTES OF PERMANENT SECRETARY GROUP MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2006 IN THE THORNHILL SUITE,
STORMONT HOTEL
AT 8.45 AM**

Present: Nigel Hamilton
Will Haire
Don Hill
John Hunter
Aideen McGinley
Gerry McGinn
Stephen Peover
Nick Perry
Stephen Quinn
Bruce Robinson
Alan Shannon
Paul Sweeney
Pat Toal

In Attendance: Mary Keegan – HM Treasury – Agenda Item 4
David Thomson – Agenda Item 4
Brian Doherty
Stephen Grimason
Debbie Sweeney – Secretary

1. **Apologies:** Andrew McCormick

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 November were agreed.

3. **Matters Arising**

Restoration

Nigel said that many issues were being negotiated with the parties. He asked Permanent Secretaries to respond urgently to any requests for information from Rosalie Flanagan in accordance with standard procedures.

[PSG to note]

4. **Treasury Briefing**

Nigel welcomed Mary Keegan to PSG. Mary outlined her career to date and her current role in Treasury. She said there were four themes to financial management.

Systems – to generate the data

Structures – clarity of structures

People – a two-part structure of good finance people and non-finance people

Information – measurable and clear objectives to manage the process.

PSG discussed Board Reporting, Capability Reviews, Policymaking and Departmental Boards.

Nigel thanked Mary for her time and insight into the workings and proposed developments in Treasury.

5. Migrant Workers

Aideen McGinley introduced the Migrant Worker Strategy for Northern Ireland Report. She said there had been significant progress and the report gave a reliable picture of the migrant worker situation in Northern Ireland.

It was agreed that comments should be forwarded to Aideen by close of play on 17 November.

[Action: PSG]

PSG agreed that the work done by DEL on the issue was excellent and would like to consult further with their Departments.

Nick Perry asked that consideration be given to a NIO representative on the Thematic Sub-Group with regard to Criminal Law and Policing input.

[Action: Aideen McGinley]

6. Irish Language Act

Paul Sweeney updated PSG on the proposed Irish Language Act.

7. Reform Event: 12 December

Bruce said a reminder about the Reform Event would issue.

The SCS event would be followed by an event with stakeholders. Bruce emphasised the importance of good representation from every Department at the Stakeholder event.

[PSG to note]

8. Tour de Table

Peter Gregson Letter

Please note Nigel has asked DEL to arrange a congratulatory letter from the Secretary of State to Professor Gregson.

[PSG to note]

Dublin Visit

Gerry McGinn said he would be attending a dinner hosted by HMA Dublin.

Spatial Strategy

Gerry McGinn said he attended the launch of the Spatial Planning Report prepared by the International Centre for Local and Regional Development. He said he would circulate the Report to colleagues

[Action: Gerry McGinn]

FSA Investigation

Pat Toal informed PSG of an FSA investigation into the slaughter of a bovine animal over the 30 months age limit.

Single Electricity Market

Stephen Quinn said the consultation document for the Single Electricity Market would be issued.

Omagh Visit

Alan Shannon updated PSG on David Hanson's visit to Omagh.

Military Sites

Alan Shannon said he would be submitting a paper to PSG on Military Sites.

Flags

Alan Shannon updated PSG on the Flying of Flags Regulations with regard to the Lighthouse Building.

Invite

Prince's Trust Gala Dinner

Invites have been issued for the event on 8 December in the City Hall. Attendees to be discussed at PSG on 17 November.

[PSG to note]

PSG – 17 November

Agenda: Review of Mental Health Update
 Reform PSG

DEBBIE SWEENEY
13 November 2006