

**Public Service Commission
Minutes of Proceedings**

**10:30 am, Friday 12 March 2010
Boardroom, 10 Cromac Place
The Gasworks**

Present: Mr Sid McDowell (Chairman)
Mr Brian Hanna
Professor Bernard Cullen
Mrs Brenda McLaughlin
Mr Jim McCusker
Mr Dessie Mitchell
Dr Collim Patton

In Attendance: Mrs Pat Stringer
Mrs Gillian McKeown

1. Apologies

No apologies.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 11 February 2010

The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Health update

Commissioners briefly discussed the letter received from Hugh McPoland on 23 February, in response to our letter sent to him on 11 February.

Agreed: Content was noted.

4. Delegation from LGSC and DoE Local Government

Wesley Shannon (DoE Local Government) and Adrian Kerr (Local Government Staff Commission) provided an update. While the Government is still signed up to reform, some further legislation will be needed to take this forward. At present there is no movement on this. Commissioners expressed concern about the impact of this uncertainty upon staff many of whom were unsure whether they should be applying for posts elsewhere, and many staff were unsettled because it was unclear when or if re-organisation was going to

take place.

Agreed: Secretariat to arrange for Wesley Shannon and Adrian Kerr to attend the Commission's meeting on 7 May to provide a further update. If sufficient developments had not taken place to merit attendance it was recognised that attendance at another time would be considered with Wesley and Adrian.

5. Education & Skills Authority - update

Commissioners discussed the meeting which took place with the Permanent Secretary of Education, Paul Sweeney, Chief Executive Designate of ESA, Gavin Boyd, and John McGrath and Jill Dowie (both ESA also) on Wednesday 10 March. The implications of delays in the creation of the new organisations (for both Education and Local Government) and how this may or may not impact on the Executive's Guiding Principles was considered.

Agreed: Secretariat to table the above as an item at the next PSC meeting on 13 April.

6. RPA Progress Reports

The Commissioners briefly discussed the reports.

7. Chairman's Business

None.

8. Northern Ireland Assembly/Executive Developments

None.

9. Any Other Business

The Chair advised that he had spoken with Adrian Kerr (LGSC) about the 'Managing People through Major Transitions' paper produced by the IDEA and that he was agreeable to putting together something similar for Northern Ireland and, if it appeared useful, to perhaps arranging a seminar/workshop to further consider some of the good practice reflected in the document.

Agreed: Secretariat to take forward with Lisa in the Local Government Staff Commission.

It was agreed that a meeting would take place with Derek Baker (DFP) on Friday 26 March 2010 to discuss the future role of the Public Service Commission. Mr Desmond Mitchell suggested that Derek Baker should be made aware of the Minister's reference to the Executive's Guiding Principles in a recent speech.

10. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 April at 2pm.

Sid Kempwell
