

**Public Service Commission  
Minutes of Proceedings**

**10:30 am, Wednesday 13 January 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 Gillian McKeown  
  
Mr Adrian Kerr (Chief Executive, LGSC)  
Mr Wesley Shannon (Head of Local Govt Division, DoE)

**1. Apologies**

The apology from Patricia Stringer was noted.

**2. Minutes of Meeting of 2 December 2010**

The minutes were agreed.

**3. Matters Arising**

Health update

As yet there has been no response from Andrew McCormick to the Commissioners' letter of 13 November.

**Agreed:** Secretariat to contact Andrew McCormick's secretary to query the lack of response.

Commissioners discussed Health's request that the HSC Board Director of Commissioning post bypass the wider RPA affected group and go straight to open competition.

**Agreed:** The Chairman to write to Health agreeing to their request, albeit with reservations, and emphasise that highly specific criteria is not helpful unless absolutely justified for specific posts.

The Chairman advised that he had checked with NILA to ensure that a recently advertised post for their organisation had been advertised in line with the Guiding Principles' Order of Consideration. They confirmed that this was the case. Commissioners briefly discussed.

**Agreed:** Secretariat to request that in future progress reports and for the 12 months following the establishment of new organisations, there should be a statement listing new senior posts filled and confirmation that they have been filled in accordance with the Guiding Principles.

#### **4. Delegation from Local Government Staff Commission and DoE**

Adrian Kerr from the Local Government Staff Commission and Wesley Shannon from DoE attended to provide an update.

- The Minister is committed to working with Executive colleagues to progress a number of critical issues including boundaries.
- Work is nearing completion on the development of guidance to support the operation of the proposed governance arrangements in the statutory transition committees and the new Councils.
- The Local Government Reform Joint Forum will begin work on draft transfer schemes early in the New Year.
- The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill is currently proceeding through its legislative stages in the Assembly following its introduction on 22 June 2009.
- The Local Government (Finance) Bill was issued for public consultation on 24 July 2009 and closed on 31 October 2009. Officials are currently considering the responses received to the consultation.
- It is anticipated that policy consultation on The Local Government (Reorganisation) Bill will commence in January 2010, subject to Executive agreement.

**Agreed:** Secretariat to confirm Adrian and Wesley's attendance at the Commission's meeting on 4 March.

#### **5. Education - update**

The Commissioners met with Will Haire, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Education and Gavin Boyd, Chief Executive Designate of ESA on 22 December 2009, further to the Minister of Education's announcement on 1 December 2009. The Commissioners briefly discussed the main points to arise from this meeting.

**Agreed:** Secretariat to request a copy of the Convergence Plan from Gavin Boyd.

Bernard Cullen advised that he and two other independent members of the Education and Library Board Staff Commission have been reappointed until

the establishment of ESA.

## **6. RPA Progress Reports**

Commissioners briefly discussed the progress reports.

## **7. Chairman's Business**

Desmond Mitchell brought the Improvement & Development Agency's 'Managing People through Major Transitions' document to the Commissioners' attention. The Commissioners discussed its content and value.

**Agreed:** Secretariat to contact Adrian Kerr from the Local Government Staff Commission to arrange an informal meeting to discuss the document and how its remarks and conclusions can be brought into play here in Northern Ireland.

## **8. Northern Ireland Assembly/Executive Developments**

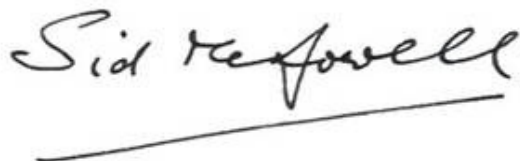
None.

## **9. Any Other Business**

None.

## **10. Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 11 February at 2:30pm.

  
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sid Hefwell". Below the signature is a horizontal line.