

**Public Service Commission
Minutes of Proceedings**

**2:30pm, Thursday 16 December 2010
Boardroom, 10 Cromac Place
The Gasworks**

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

In Attendance: Mrs Pat Stringer

1. Apologies

No apologies.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 3 November 2010

The minutes were agreed.

3. Delegation from DoE

Wesley Shannon addressed the meeting on the Reform of Local Government. He briefed Commissioners on the recently announced Planning Bill, the Local Government Reform Consultation on Policy Proposals and in particular the proposed model Transfer Scheme.

4. Post meeting discussion

Commissioners expressed concern that the PSC had not been included on the original consultation list for the "Local Government Reform Consultation on Policy Proposals." They asked the Chairman to write to the Department to express this concern and reiterate that it would be important that the Commission is consulted on the draft model Transfer Scheme for local government staff and NI Civil Service staff transferring to the new councils.

Also, while Commissioners understood clearly that the Joint Reform Forum would be heavily involved in discussions around the implications of the proposed model Transfer Scheme as it would apply to local government staff. they would welcome some clarification on the numbers and grades of civil

service staff likely to be affected by the transfer to local government employment and how these transfers are to be handled.

Action: Chairman to write to DOE

Action: Commissioners to consider response to Local Government Reform Consultation on Policy Proposals (for next meeting).

The Planning Bill is to be examined to see if it contains any clauses relating to the transfer of staff.

Action: CEO to follow-up

5..Delegation from Education

Paul Sweeney addressed the meeting and reiterated that the Minister was very much on board to effect cost reductions in spite of the stalled political impasse around the establishment of ESA.

He advised Commissioners of the Minister's decision to take forward an accelerated targeted programme of cost reductions in the education sector in the current year by way of making available a supporting voluntary severance scheme.

One PSC member raised the question of an appeal mechanism for those would apply for severance but are turned down. Departmental officials indicated that this suggestion would be considered.

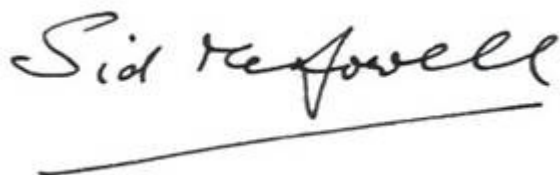
6. Post meeting discussion

Commissioners agreed to write to the Department of Education asking to be briefed as the severance scheme proceeded.

Action: Chairman to write to DE

7.Date of next meeting

13 January 2011

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sid McDowell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

SID MCDOWELL

Chairman

