

**Public Service Commission
Minutes of Proceedings**

**10:30am, Tuesday 17 August 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 Brian Hanna

In Attendance: Mrs Pat Stringer
Mrs Gillian McKeown

1. Apologies

No apologies.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 22 June 2010

The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Compliance Questionnaire

A final draft of the Questionnaire was sent to Commissioners in advance of the meeting for review. Pat Stringer invited feedback from Commissioners. It was noted that the results of Questionnaire are a positive affirmation that the Guiding Principles occupy a key role within the RPA process.

Agreed: Secretariat to contact NISRA to request that an additional column is inserted in one of the tables. Once this change has been made, the Questionnaire will be placed on the PSC website. Recommendations from the Questionnaire to be extracted and placed as an agenda item on next month's meeting.

Brain Hanna pointed out that the 6th Guiding Principle is described in error as a Guiding Note in the Compendium of Guiding Principles, while in the Questionnaire it is properly described as a Code of Practice.

Agreed: Secretariat to write to DFP to point this out and also to put an addendum on the website detailing this.

Future of the PSC

Commissioners discussed the future role of the PSC. They agreed there is still a need for the Commission, but recognise the financial restraints faced across the board. It was noted that a two thirds of the PSC's allocated budget for last year was handed back, and that already this year a third of the allocated budget has been handed back.

Agreed: Chair to write to Derek Baker affirming the Commission's commitment to the RPA process and acknowledging the need for some scaling down of resources given the current financial restraints.

4. Education and Skills Authority – update

The Chair advised that the Permanent Secretary of Education, Paul Sweeney, will be attending the next PSC meeting in September to provide an update.

Agreed: Secretariat to write to Gavin Boyd, Chief Executive Designate of the Education and Skills Authority to request an update on Convergence Delivery.

5. Local Government – update

A letter was sent to Ian Maye, Department of the Environment on 1 July 2010 registering the Commission's disappointment that the PSC was not copied into the Minister's letter of 15 June to William Hay (confirming that the Executive has been unable to reach agreement on a way forward for the local government reform programme due for delivery in 2011). Ian Maye responded on 29 July apologising for this oversight.

6. RPA Progress Reports

Already covered above.

7. Chairman's Business

None.

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 Tuesday 21 September at 2:30pm.

Sid McDowell

Sid McDowell CBE
Chairman