

**Public Service Commission
Minutes of Proceedings**

**2pm, Friday 7 May 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 13 April 2010

The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Compliance Questionnaire

A copy of the draft electronic survey was sent to Commissioners for information. Pat Stringer advised that as planned, it will be ready for issue in mid May to HR in all of the organisations being surveyed. Desmond Mitchell put forward that a 'reminder' and 'final reminder' should be issued to those partaking in the survey to help ensure a high return.

Agreed: Secretariat to liaise with NISRA to ensure reminders are sent to those staff involved.

Compendium of Guiding Principles

Copies of the Compendium of Guiding Principles were collected from Lesley House and distributed to Commissioners. A circulation list was agreed on in conjunction with PSC and copies have been distributed to all on it.

Agreed: Secretariat to obtain the Compendium in electronic format and place it on the PSC website.

Future of the PSC

A record of the Commission's meeting with Derek Baker (DFP) on Friday 26 March 2010 was sent to him on 22 April. There has been no reply or acknowledgement as yet.

A letter was received from Bumper Graham (Assistant General Secretary, NIPSA) on 30 April 2010 supporting the retention of the PSC..

4. Education and Skills Authority - update

The Commission received a letter from Gavin Boyd on 28 April regarding ESA's Vacancy Control Policy, outlining three options for consideration and inviting the Commission to provide advice and feedback. The Commissioners discussed the letter and agreed that further information was required on each of the options outlined.

Agreed: Secretariat to respond in writing to Gavin Boyd welcoming the fact that they are considering their options against the Guiding Principles, asking for more information on each option and asking for confirmation as to the actual start date of the Convergence Plan.

In the letter received from Gavin Boyd, it stated that Shane McCurdy was working on producing a Convergence Business Plan.

Agreed: Secretariat to request a copy of the Convergence Business Plan once available.

A letter was sent to Paul Sweeney, Permanent Secretary of Education on 20 April confirming the PSC view that the Executive's Guiding Principles continue to be applicable during the implementation of the Convergence Plan. There has been no response to this as yet.

5. The Guiding Principles and Vacancy Control in light of delays in implementing RPA

Covered as above.

6. RPA Progress Reports

The Commissioners briefly discussed the reports.

7. Chairman's Business

The Chairman advised Commissioners that he had met with Adrian Kerr and Linda Leahy from the Local Government Staff Commission to discuss, amongst other things, Vacancy Control.

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 22 June at 10:30am.

Sid Keefwell
