

**Public Service Commission
Minutes of Proceedings**

**2:30pm, Tuesday 21 September 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: Paul Sweeney (Permanent Secretary, Dept of Ed)
Gavin Boyd (Chief Executive Designate, ESA)
Mrs Pat Stringer
Mrs Gillian McKeown

1. Apologies

No apologies.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 17 August 2010

The minutes were agreed.

3. Delegation from Education

Paul Sweeney and Gavin Boyd attended to provide an update on the Convergence Plan and the Education and Skills Authority.

While the establishment of ESA is still Executive policy, there is currently insufficient consensus for its establishment and it has stalled at the consideration stage. 110 amendments have been tabled and at present there is no date for the establishment of ESA. The Southern Education & Library Board is down to three commissioners and the other four boards have been reconstituted on a smaller basis. In the meantime people have agreed to serve on the boards on an interim basis. All ordinary members are now in place but none of the elected members have been placed.

Vacancy Control is still operational for those who may be affected by RPA.

The Executive had their away day on 6 July 2010. Under the Barnett formula, a budget settlement for Northern Ireland will be announced on 20 October.

The Commissioners voiced their disappointment that there has been no progress on the establishment of ESA and that they hoped to be updated as soon as there was any progress towards this.

4. Matters arising

Compliance Questionnaire

Pat Stringer had highlighted to Commissioners the areas for further action arising from the Compliance Questionnaire report. Commissioners discussed the areas concerned.

Agreed: Secretariat to contact the unions to request that a link to www.pscni.gov.uk, and in particular to the Guiding Principles, is put on their websites. The Chair to write a letter to all employers who took part in the Compliance Survey to remind them where they can access the Guiding Principles.

Future of the PSC

The Chair reminded Commissioners he had written to Derek Baker on 27 August acknowledging the current economic climate and suggesting some downsizing of the PSC. As yet there has been no reply.

5. Local Government – update

6. Chairman's Business

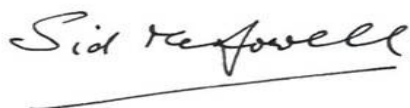
None.

7. Any Other Business

None.

8. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3 November at 2:30pm.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sid McDowell". A horizontal line is drawn underneath the signature.

Sid McDowell CBE
Chairman