



**Public Service Commission
Minutes of Proceedings**

**Wednesday 29 October 2008
Boardroom 10 Cromac Place
The Gasworks**

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

In Attendance: Miss Susan Dornan

1. Apologies

None.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 30 September 2008

After a slight amendment, the minutes of the 30 September 2008 meeting were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Codes of Practice/Guidance Notes Update

A progress report from Jacqui Wallace, Central Personnel Group (CPG, dated 24 October 2008) was tabled and noted.

Compliance with PSC Guiding Principles

The Chairman summarised the meeting with Government officials on 16 October 2008.

Agreed: Chairman to write to John McMillen and Derek Baker outlining the Commission's understanding of the actions agreed by Government at the 16 October meeting. Letter to emphasise the urgency of progressing the draft 5th Guiding Principle given the changes in April 2009 with respect to the Library Authority and the Health Sector. Government to provide an update in advance of the Commission meeting in November.

Agreed: Acting Chief Executive to circulate a note of the meeting with Government officials on 16 October 2008 to Commissioners.

Fifth Guiding Principle Voluntary Severance - Update.

Addressed under the topic above.

Research Project – 9 December event - update

The Chairman advised that the report issued on 10 October 2008. Commissioners were informed that a preliminary notice had been issued to interested parties on the Communication event now planned for 9 December 2008.

Agreed: Acting Chief Executive to arrange for invitations to be sent to the Labour Relations Agency and the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (if not already invited).

Agreed: Acting Chief Executive to give consideration to media involvement in respect of the event and the preparation of a draft Press Release.

Health and Social Care Reform – Consultation report September 2008

The consultation document was briefly discussed by Commissioners.

Agreed: Acting Chief Executive to arrange a date when David Bingham could brief Commissioners on developments in the Health Sector.

4. RPA Progress Reports

Commissioners noted the progress reports and indicated their appreciation of the depth of the reports provided by the different sectors.

5. Location of Public Sector Jobs resulting from the RPA

Commissioners noted and briefly discussed the report.

Agreed: Acting Chief Executive to ascertain which Senior Civil Servant has responsibility for the report.

6. Role of Public Service Commission in Shared Services/Status of Guiding Principles – Senior Counsel Opinion

Commissioners discussed Senior Counsel's opinion and options for the way ahead.

Agreed: Acting Chief Executive to draft an addendum to an existing Guiding Principle to ensure consistency of treatment for staff irrespective of the future employer being from the Public or Private sector.

7. Chairman's Business

Commissioner Mitchell gave a brief overview of his presentation to Policy Panel C (Structural Reform) of the local government reform programme on 16 October 2008.

Agreed: Paul Simpson and Ian Maye to be invited to a Commission meeting to provide a progress update on local government reform.

8. Northern Ireland Assembly/Executive Developments

None.

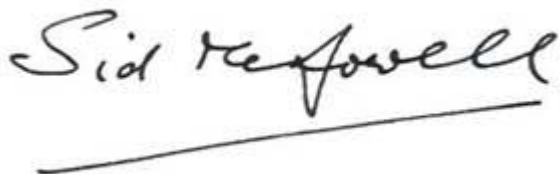
9. Any Other Business

None.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Commissioners agreed dates for future meetings as follows:

25 November 2008 start 2.30pm (rescheduled from 26 November 2008)
17 December 2008 start 2.30pm
14 January 2009 start 10.30


A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sid Keefe", is written above a horizontal line.