

**Public Service Commission
Minutes of Proceedings**

**2pm, Monday 23 February 2009
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

There were no apologies. The Chairman advised that the delegation form Education had been postponed.

Agreed: Commission to advise Gavin Boyd of rescheduled meeting date 27 March 2009 at 2pm.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 26 January 2009

The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Codes of Practice/Guidance Notes Update

The progress report from Jacqui Wallace, Central Personnel Group (CPG, dated 20 February 2009) was noted.

5th Guiding Principle

Commissioners expressed their frustration at the continuing delay on progressing the draft Fifth Guiding Principle.

Agreed: Commission to submit final form of 5th Guiding Principle to OFMDFM on a without prejudice basis to the Executive's approval.

Pensions/secondment arrangements

Commissioners briefly discussed the response from CPG (note dated 17 February) to the Acting Chief Executive's letter of 10 February.

Compliance – update

There was a brief discussion on the progress report from CPG (note dated 17 February).

Agreed: Commission to advise CPG that, in the absence of substantial progress by Government on these matters prior to the next Commission meeting the Commission intends to progress these matters directly.

Compliance and lessons learned to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Communication event – update

The Chairman informed Commissioners that he had met the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) on 9 February to discuss follow up events to the Communication seminar on 9 December 2008. These will probably be held towards the end of March. The Chairman also advised that he had met with John McMillen, OFMDFM, and discussed the Commission's plans for a consolidated publication on the GPs as well as indicating the intention to arrange further events to meet the requests flowing from the 9 December seminar.

Role of PSC in Shared Services/Status of Guiding Principles – update

A draft paper was tabled and this will be discussed at the next Commission meeting.

Agreed: Legal advice to be forwarded to Commissioners to consider in conjunction with the today's tabled paper.

Agreed: Commission to respond to Committee for Finance and Personnel consultation into public procurement which is due to close 27 February 2009. Advise that the Commission has an interest in the area of services being contracted out to the private sector and how the GPs could be incorporated into contracts. Offer to provide further information/evidence.

The Chairman advised that OFMDFM is seeking comments on a revised RPA affected Group by 2 March 2009.

Agreed: Commission to request clarification from OFMDFM (RPA Central Unit) to clarify the differences between the existing and proposed RPA Affected Group and the rationale for proposed changes.

4. RPA Progress Reports

Commissioners briefly discussed the progress reports supplied on Local Government, Education, NILA and Health.

5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION REPORT

Commissioners briefly discussed and welcomed the report on the Review of the LGSC undertaken by John Hunter.

Agreed: Commission to seek clarification of the Government's current position on the Bain report. Commission to write to DoE welcoming the report and supporting the need for the LGSC to be extended for a further two years.

6. Chairman's Business

Mary Walker query

Agreed: Commission to respond along agreed lines.

Administrative support

The Chairman advised that arrangements for permanent, part-time Staff Officer level cover were being investigated.

7. Northern Ireland Assembly/Executive Developments

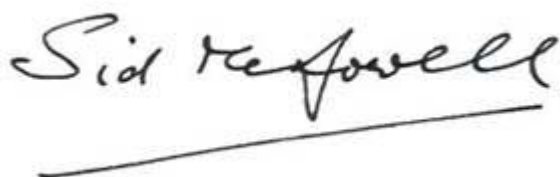
None.

8. Any Other Business

None.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 26th March at 2pm. Lunch will be provided from 1pm.


A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sid Keefwell", with a horizontal line underneath it.