



**Public Service Commission
Minutes of Proceedings**

**Wednesday 30 July 2008
Boardroom 10 Cromac Place
The Gasworks**

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

In Attendance: Mr Brian Martin

Ms Irene Knox – Item 4
Ms Mary Walker

1. Presentation from NI Library Authority Implementation Team

The Chairman welcomed Irene Knox and Mary Walker to the meeting. NILA made a comprehensive presentation and distributed the relevant documentation. The following issues were addressed during the presentation and the subsequent discussion – legislation, organisational structure, filling of senior posts, filling of posts in corporate services, training for staff, location, voluntary severance, relationship with Education and Skills Authority and Trade Unions.

Commissioners reflected on the presentation following the departure of the NILA representatives. They were particularly impressed with NILA's commitment to safeguarding the interests of staff as well as the constructive approach to communication and consultation issues. Commissioners decided to seek some further clarification on the

rationale for filling the Director posts and what account had been taken of employment law and equality considerations in determining the composition of selection pools.

Agreed: Chief Executive to write to NILA .

2. Minutes of Meeting of 27th June 2008

The minutes of the 13 May meeting were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Codes of Practice /Guidance Notes Update

An updated table showing the position of all of the Guiding Principles was tabled. Commissioners noted that government officials are consulting on draft Guidance Notes in respect of the revised 2nd and 4th Guiding Principles and that a revised draft on the Code of Practice on the 3rd Guiding Principle is awaited following discussions between officials and Trade Unions. Commissioners agreed with the comments the Chief Executive had made to officials on the Guidance Notes in respect of the 2nd and 4th Guiding Principles.

Agreed: Chief Executive to write to officials confirming Commission's position on Guidance Notes.

Compliance with PSC Guiding Principles

The Chairman advised Commissioners that no response had been received from OFMDFM to the letter which had been sent to the Director, Central Personnel Group on 16 May.

Research Project Update

Commissioners were reminded of the Project Steering Group meeting on 14 August when it is expected that the Consultants will outline their findings.

Location of Public Sector jobs resulting from the Review of Public Administration

Brian Hanna advised Commissioners that the Bain report is at final drafting stage.

Education Sector Update

The Chairman informed Commissioners that the Commission will now be advised when important communication information is issued by Education and Skills Authority.

5th Guiding Principle Voluntary Severance

The Chairman advised members that it is not known when the Guiding Principle will be considered by the Executive.

Future of Public Service Commission

The Chairman advised Commissioners that there had been no contact from officials to arrange a meeting with the Commission on this issue. He understood that Trade Unions were seeking a meeting with OFMDFM.

Role of Public Service Commission in Shared Services

Commissioners indicated that they were content with the letter of 22 July to the Commission's legal adviser.

4. Chairman's Business

Staffing of the Secretariat

The Chairman advised Commissioners that the Chief Executive would be retiring at the end of September 2008 and that he was seeking a replacement on a part time basis. As the Gasworks lease ended in February 2008 he was also considering alternative accommodation.

Agreed: Chairman to pursue options and report at next meeting.

5. Date of Next Meeting

27 August 2008. Further meetings were arranged for 30 September, 29 October and 26 November 2008.

Sid Keiffell