

**Public Service Commission
Minutes of Proceedings**

**Wednesday 27 August 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

1. Apologies

Brian Hanna had indicated that he would be slightly late.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 30 July 2008

The minutes of the 30 July meeting were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Northern Ireland Library Authority Update

Commissioners discussed the letter from the Chief Executive [Designate] which provided further explanation on the rationale behind the filling of the Director posts. Commissioners were content that NILA is acting in accordance with PSC Guiding Principles without creating a precedent. Commissioners considered that the discussion would better inform them as implementation progressed in other RPA sectors.

Codes of Practice Update

An update paper from Central Personnel Group was tabled and noted.

Compliance with PSC Guiding Principles

Commissioners expressed concern that there had been no contact from government officials on this issue since the Chief Executive wrote on 16 May. They considered this to be highly unsatisfactory and asked the Chief Executive to arrange for senior officials to appear before the Commission to explain what is happening. Commissioners, however, want to discuss the report from the research into the Effectiveness of Communication etc before this meeting takes place.

Action: Chief Executive to write to OFMDFM.

Research Project Update

Dessie Mitchell advised Commissioners that the Project Steering Group had provided comments to the RPA Central Unit on the first draft of the report. The Steering group would be meeting the consultants on 28 August with a view to receiving the final draft report as early as possible. Commissioners considered that the research would provide valuable lessons for all sectors as RPA implementation progressed.

Action: Final report to be discussed at PSC meeting on 30 September 2008.

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

Brian Hanna advised Commissioners that the Bain report might be launched on 30 September 2008.

Agreed: Commission to discuss Bain report following publication

5th Guiding Principle Voluntary Severance

The Chairman advised members that it was now hoped that the Guiding Principle would be taken at a September meeting of the Executive.
Role of Public Service Commission in Shared Services/Status of PSC Guiding Principles

The Chairman advised Commissioners that the Commission's legal adviser had issued instructions to senior counsel on the issues raised by the Commission.

4.Future of Public Service Commission/Staffing of Secretariat

The Chairman advised Commissioners that he would be meeting the Director, Central Personnel Group about these issues on 2 September.

5. Chairman's Business

Commissioners agreed that it would be helpful if government officials would provide a progress report for each Commission meeting on the implementation of RPA in each of the sectors.

Agreed: Chief Executive to write to RPA Central Unit requesting progress report.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 30 September 2008.

Sid Kempwell
