

PERMANENT SECRETARIES' STOCKTAKE

Minutes of meeting on Friday 21 February 2020, 8.45am
Executive Room, Stormont Castle

1. **Present:** **David Sterling Chair**

Peter May
Katrina Godfrey
Derek Baker
Tracy Meharg
Sue Gray
Mike Brennan
Richard Pengelly
Denis McMahon
Neill Jackson
Jill Minne
Chris Stewart
Mark Browne
Chris McNabb

Apologies

Brenda King, Andrew McCormick, Hugh Widdis

In attendance:

NR (for Brenda King), (Eugene O'Loan), for
Hugh Widdis and **NR** (Secretary)

2. **Minutes of 14 February 2020 Meeting**

The minutes were agreed.

3. **Matters Arising**

Updates on matters arising from the previous meeting were provided.

Madeline Allesandri, the newly appointed Permanent Under Secretary for NIO, joined the meeting briefly for introductions and an overview of current issues.

4. **Executive and Assembly update**

Neill Jackson provided details of current executive issues and of guidance circulated recently by the Speaker. Neill undertook to distribute the guidance to colleagues to enable a more informed discussion at the next meeting.
[Action: Neill Jackson/HOCS office]

5. **Legislative Programme Update**

NR spoke in relation to the programme for legislation planned from now until summer recess and of the challenge of unexpected additional demands which can also arise.

6. **HOCS update**

David Sterling led discussion on machinery of government processes, budget handling and the merits of advance discussion in relation to a variety of budget planning scenarios. **[Action: All to note]**

7. **Tour de Table**

DAERA

Denis McMahon advised of the success of a recent energy focussed session on climate change.

DfC

Tracy Meharg spoke in relation media coverage of recent issues.

DoF

Sue Gray raised engagement in support of Assembly Committees and of a forthcoming meeting between the DoF Minister and the Chief Executive to the Treasury.

DoH

Richard Pengelly advised of plans to fill an impending vacancy in the Health and Social Care Board with a Grade 3 in the Department in line with plans to rationalise the role of the HSCB. Richard also provided an update on the circulation of the Coronavirus and the importance of associated business contingency planning.

DfI

Katrina Godfrey noted the forthcoming weather warnings, the third in consecutive weeks, and spoke of the impact on front-line staff in the monitoring of and multi-agency planning for such weather events.

TEO

Chris Stewart continued discussion on planning for the possible impact of Coronavirus and advised of ongoing mitigation efforts via cumulative impact planning.

HOCS

David Sterling advised of offers of presentations from Paul Sweeney on an Eden-style project and from Anne Watt from Pivotal. The group were content for both to be scheduled at future meetings.

[Action: HOCS office to note]

NR

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