

**PERMANENT SECRETARIES' STOCKTAKE  
FRIDAY 11 September 2020**

**08.45 VIA ZOOM**

**Attending**

Tracy Meharg, (Chair) Andrew McCormick, Denis McMahon, Peter May, Sue Gray, Hugh Widdis, [NR], Richard Pengelly, Mike Brennan, Katrina Godfrey, Mark Browne, John Smith (for Derek Baker), [NR] (Secretary).

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Jill Minne, Chris McNabb, [NR] Chris Stewart and Derek Baker.

**2.** Minutes of the meeting of Friday 4 September were agreed.

**3. Brexit update**

Andrew McCormick updated colleagues on the Internal Market Bill, potential legal implications and Brexit challenges and preparations.

**4. Budget**

Sue Gray outlined the current pressures on existing financial resources and the need for Executive decisions to provide clarity on budgets for departments. Sue also spoke in relation to the Comprehensive Spending Review and October Monitoring and urged decisive action on prioritising spending given the limited availability of resources.

**5. COVID-19 update**

Richard Pengelly lead discussion on the latest Executive restrictions in response to a rise in infection rates in parts of Northern Ireland. Following discussion on the recent change to restrictions, colleagues noted the importance of appropriate engagement with key stakeholders going forward.

**6. Ports**

Denis McMahon and Andrew McCormick spoke on the latest Brexit developments with regard to local ports.

## **7. Tour de Table**

Current issues were captured via discussion of items 3-6.

### **Annual leave**

Colleagues discussed the continuing issue of large amounts of untaken annual leave and possible implications. Sue Gray confirmed that work on this matter is in train.

**[Action: Sue Gray]**

## **8. The next meeting will take place on Friday 18 September.**