

RPA – Cross Sector HR Forum Meeting – 10 May 2006

Present: Michael Daly (CPG)
Mary Bunting (OFMDFM)
Jacqui Wallace (CPG)
David Bingham (DHSSPS)
Matthew Alford (DE)
Marieanne Fleming (DOE)
Colin McWhirter (DRD)

Apologies: Linda Brown
Orla Murray

1. Procedures for handling of submissions to PSC

For the benefit of those attending for the first time Michael outlined the purpose of the Forum and explained the process for submission of papers to PSC. **It was agreed that all papers should be circulated to the Cross Sector HR Forum for identification/consideration of any Cross Sector issues prior to submission to PSC.** The benefits of this in terms of sharing best practise etc was acknowledged.

2. Operational arrangements

Michael explained the importance of Forum members having in place or putting in place arrangements to support identification of cross sector issues for the areas they represent. **It was agreed that members would report more formally at the next meeting.**

3. Staff related clauses in RPA legislation

Michael updated the meeting on the advice received from Orla Murray in relation to legislation. He confirmed that he has asked Jacqui to prepare a draft brief in this regard.

4. HPSS HR Framework

David explained the status of the HPSS HR Framework document and confirmed his position in terms of submission to PSC. Michael raised concerns in relation to the wording in paragraph 76. **He agreed to discuss with Linda Brown submission of the document to PSC.**

5. Guiding Principles paper

Both David and Matthew raised concerns in relation to the references to “the location of transferee organisations” and to harmonisation in the document. **It was agreed that the former would be amended to read “terms of relocation of employees” and that further consideration would be given to the latter. It was further agreed that the document would be re-circulated for comment.**

6. Update on PSC meeting 9 May 2006

Michael informed the meeting of the feedback received from Stephen Graham on PSC position in relation to:-

- First Guiding Principle – Communication Strategy
- Reaction to the think piece on Filling posts
- Legislation
- Harmonisation
- Managing vacancies
- Meeting with SoS
- Legal advice

7. Forward Plans/Meetings

Michael explained that meetings had been placed in diaries fortnightly for the next few months. Mary confirmed that she did not plan to attend every meeting but would make a decision based on the agenda to be discussed. Colin confirmed that he and Wendy Johnston would alternate.

8. Tour de Table

David Bingham informed the meeting of a sister paper to the HR Framework document. He agreed to circulate this on the basis that it would not circulate any wider than members of the Forum as it is in the very early stages of drafting.