

JOINT FORUM BMA/RCN/RCM

MEETING HELD AT 2:00 PM ON 14th May 2008 IN D2, CONFERENCE ROOM, CASTLE BUILDINGS

In Attendance

Laura Armstrong
David Bingham (Chair)
Mary Hinds
Breedagh Hughes
Mary Moreland (Minutes)
Damian Prince

Apologies

Dr Andrew McCormick
Janice Smyth
Heather Robinson
Danny Lambe

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr Bingham welcomed everyone and noted apologies.

2. Minutes of meeting held 20th November 2007

Agreed

3. Matters Arising

Mr Prince reported that the Employee database originally proposed would hold all equality data on staff involved in RPA and also enable data to be collected in a more uniformed manner. However, as RPA has altered it is perhaps time to consider the value of continuing with the database especially as the information to be held will be very sensitive. It was noted that it would be increasingly difficult to produce information about staff affected by RPA as distinct from other causes such as the CSR.

4. Equality Update

Nothing new to report.

5. Implementation Update

Mr Prince reported that the centre is beginning to reduce in size as all sectors move towards implementation. Consideration is being given to the value that the OFMDFM central unit can bring to the process. The OFMDFM committee is currently considering issues around the review of Quangos. This is linked to their formal consideration of the Public Authorities Reform Bill.

Mr Bingham reported that Dr McCormick and he had met with the PSC earlier in the week and are required to write to PSC in due course regarding the preferred appointments process for the new organisations.

6. Cross Section HR update

Ms Armstrong provided the update by way of a paper (Tab A) setting out the position with regard to PSC Guiding Principals, Codes of Practice and Guidance Notes.

In response to a query from Mrs Hughes, Mr Bingham confirmed that there had been no compulsory severances and none were planned.

7. A.O.B

Due to diary pressures Mrs Hinds requested that the Forum consider the value of continuing face-to-face meetings. Staff side were now receiving all the papers and if this continues most of the business could be completed by email or in other forums. The members present agreed to put a date in the diary 6 months hence and if not required it can be cancelled.

Update on PSC Guiding Principles, Codes of Practice and Guidance Notes

May 2008

2nd (Managing Vacancies Effectively)

- Following on from the Executive's acceptance of the re-issued 2nd Guiding Principle, work is underway to develop a re-draft of the guidance note which issued for the original 2nd Guiding Principle. It is hoped to publicly consult on this during May/June.

3rd (Staff Transfers)

- A re-drafted Code of Practice which contains, amongst others, elements in relation to the addendum to the 3rd Guiding Principle and dispute resolution for pensions issued to TUS and the PSC for comment and responses were due by 2/05/08. Meetings have been requested by both the PSC and NICICTU to take forward the issue. These are in the process of being arranged.

4th (Filling Vacancies and New or Substantially New Posts in New Organisations being Created as a Result of the Review of Public Administration)

- Following on from the Executive's acceptance of the re-issued 4th Guiding Principle, work is underway to develop a re-draft of the guidance note which issued for the original 4th Guiding Principle. It is hoped to publicly consult on this during May/June.

5th (Severance)

- A paper on the draft 5th Guiding Principle is going through the Executive process with the aim of it being taken to an Executive meeting in May.

7th (Location)

- A draft code of practice (to be re-branded as a 'guidance note') was consulted on during February/March, the responses are being collated and it is hoped to publish in the near future.

8th (Equality)

- A draft code of practice (to be re-branded as a 'guidance note') was consulted on during February/March, the responses are being collated and it is hoped to publish in the near future.

9th (Capacity Building)

- A draft code of practice (to be re-branded as a 'guidance note') was consulted in during February/March, the responses are being collated and it is hoped to publish in the near future.

10th (Employment Relations)

- Following on from the Executive's acceptance of the 10th Guiding Principle, a draft guidance note issued for public consultation in late April. Responses are due by 16 May.