



13 January 2004

REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CONSULTATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ian Pearson, MP, today urged more people to respond to the Review of Public Administration (RPA) consultation document and reminded them that the response deadline has been extended to the end of February.

The Minister said he was keenly aware of the public's desire to see an outcome to this review as soon as possible and had been encouraged by the considerable interest the consultation document had already received.

He said : **"I am hopeful that this interest will translate into a strong and positive response by the end of February. Once the consultation period ends I am determined that the Review will move forward strongly, specifically, and with pace.**

"The RPA consultation document provides everyone in Northern Ireland with the opportunity to contribute to the debate on the future of public administration here. People have a right to expect high quality public

services but this can only be achieved by establishing a modern system of public administration that is both efficient and effective.

"In Northern Ireland, the system of public administration has remained the same for the last 30 years and during that time public sector workers have made an invaluable contribution to society. It is now time to examine how these services should be delivered in the future.

"The deadline to respond to the document has been extended to 27 February, and I am determined to move the review on quickly after that. It is very important, therefore, that people make their views on this matter known to the review team before the deadline.

"I hope that as many people as possible will take this opportunity to contribute to help shape the future of public administration in Northern Ireland."

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The RPA consultation document was launched last October and following the announcement of Assembly elections the deadline for submissions was extended by six weeks to 27 February 2004.

The consultation document can be downloaded from the RPA website www.rpani.gov.uk or hard copies are available by telephoning 028 9027 7675.

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