



FORUM MEETING

Thursday 7th August 2014 @ 10.30am

Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick Co. Antrim

MINUTES

In Attendance

	Irene Kerrigan	John Loughran
Mitch Bresland	Jennifer McNern	Sandra Peake
Alex Bunting	David Scott	Jude Whyte
Liz Clarke	Jeff Smith	
Violet Craig	Ann Travers	Present
Stephen Gault		John Beggs (Chair)
Peter Heathwood	Apologies	Adrian McNamee
Roberta Holmes	Alan Brecknell	Tina McCann
Fiona Kelly	Eibhlin Glenholmes	

1. Minutes from meeting on the 4th July

The minutes of the last were checked for amendments and accuracy and none were recorded. Minutes were proposed by Mitch and Ann and adopted for the record.

2. Matters Arising

John gave an overview of the action points of the last meeting and advised the following;

A letter has been drafted to Minister McCausland's office to request a date for the rescheduled meeting with Forum members to discuss the pension.

John advised that all 17 members of the Forum have agreed to remain with the Forum for the duration of the next Business Case that will cover October 2014 until March 2017. The research into the business case for the Forum recommended a broader use of experts and stakeholders. Therefore, the role of the Associate Member has been reviewed and it is proposed that instead of appointing Associate Members, a panel of stakeholders and experts will be compiled on a thematic basis and used as the Forum progresses through its work programme.

3. AOB

John gave an update on the recruitment of the new Commissioner. We have received a response from Minister's to our letter of concern at the delay in appointing a Commissioner. They acknowledge that there is a delay however, they didn't specify a timescale for appointment. The Office for the First and deputy First Minister are indicating that an advert should be placed in August with interviews in October as an interview panel has been approved.

Peter, Alex and the Commission will be attending a meeting with the Secretary of State on the 10th September to discuss the issue of the pension. Ann suggested that a non-severely injured member also attend to reinforce the issue consensus of all Forum members who agree that it imperative to get a pension implemented as soon as possible. It was agreed that Alex and Peter would reflect the views of the whole Forum when they meet the Secretary of State.

John advised that the Hallett review had now been released and the Commission had issued a press release. A discussion was had on the views of the Forum on the conclusions and recommendations and whether they felt that Dame Hallett had taken on board the views of the Forum. It was noted that the NI Affairs Committee were continuing to look at the issue of 'On the Runs 'through the autumn.

John concluded that the Hallett Review contained complex legalities and that the Commission will continue to keep this issue under review and monitor the progress of the recommendations.

Tina advised that each members pack contained a hard copy version of the DUP Consultation on the Pension for the Severely Injured. She has spoken to their Policy Officer and he advised that although there may be conflicting closing dates on their documents and website, they will accept responses after the advertised closing date of 6th August.

John updated members on services to victims and survivors and advised that Anne Dorbie had now left as Chief Executive of the VSS, Oliver Wilkinson is the Interim Chair and Margaret Bateson is Acting Chief Executive. He is to attend a meeting later today to be updated on the departmental budget cuts which are anticipated to be about 4.5%. Ann advised that David Ford had said in the media that the

Department of Justice would not have the budget to deal with the past. John stated that the Commission would listen again to his statement and look into it if necessary and seek clarification.

AP: Tina to revisit public statements by Minister Ford on dealing with the past and budget cuts.

4. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 25th September 2014 and will be a residential. Tina will advise on arrangements in due course.