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FROM: ROSALIE FLANAGAN Copy Distribution Below
DATE: 31 May 2000
TO: PS/FIRST MINISTER
PS/DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER

CHAIRMAN'S BRIEF FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Attached is the Chairman's brief for tomorrow's Executive meeting.

I have split the chairing role between the two Ministers on the basis of the first half of the meeting being chaired by the First Minister and the second half by the Deputy First Minister.

The brief reflects the late inclusion of the Weights and Measures Bill – papers will be circulated tomorrow morning, and the decision, of which I have just been notified, by the Minister of Finance and Personnel to withdraw the Trustee Amendment Bill from the legislative programme.

Rosalie Flanagan

ROSALIE FLANAGAN
☎ 28420

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 1 JUNE 2002

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Ms Regan
Mr Wheeler
Mr Campbell
Dr Gudgin
Mr Kerr
Mr Barrington
Mr Larkin
Mr Logue

INTRODUCTION

Welcome Ministers back to the first meeting of the Executive Committee since its reconstitution.

John G. O'Sullivan

Express regret at the absence of the Minister for Health and the Minister for Social Development.

Ask Executive Committee to agree that they will continue to ensure the effective delivery of good governance and public service, and in the event of any breakdown in the normal working of the state, we take steps to ensure that we respond.

Longer agenda today but wish to give all Ministers the opportunity to update the Executive Committee on major departmental issues later in the meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: 1 JUNE 2000

CHAIRMAN'S BRIEF

TO BE CHAIRED BY FIRST MINISTER

INTRODUCTION

Welcome Ministers back to the first meeting of the Executive Committee following restoration.

Welcome G. Loghane.

Express regret at the absence of the Minister for Regional Development and the Minister for Social Development.

Ask Executive Committee to agree that they will want to ensure the effective delivery of good governance and public service, and in light of the outworking of the stated DUP position, will take steps to ensure that this happens.

Lengthy agenda today but wish to give all Ministers the opportunity to update the Executive Committee on major departmental issues later in the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 1: MINUTES OF LAST MEETING EC (M) (00) 5

- Seek agreement from the Committee to the minutes of the 9 February meeting

1 February Minutes – issue which may arise

At the 9 February meeting there was considerable discussion about the minutes of the 1 February meeting on foot of points raised by the Minister of Health. The outcome was that one amendment to the 1 February minutes was agreed by the Committee (paragraph 4.2). A revised set of minutes incorporating this change has been circulated to the Executive Committee. However, the Minister of Health and Minister of Education also dissented from approval of paragraphs 1.3 and 3.3 of the 1 February minutes. The Committee did not agree to changes to these paragraphs. The Minister of Health may seek to have the 1 February minutes amended to reflect the dissention.

Line to Take – if raised

The minutes of any Executive Committee meeting should be those agreed by the Committee.

To the extent that Ministers express reservations or dissention from the agreed record, that will be reflected in the minutes of the subsequent meeting where the dissention is discussed.

This matter is not specifically dealt with in the Ministerial Code.

If necessary, a vote on this method of recording dissention from the minutes can be taken.

MATTERS ARISING

Paragraph 1.3 of 9 February Minutes

It was agreed that the Secretariat should carry out further work to define the categories of issues to be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee by Ministers. This will eventually be reflected in the Ministerial Code, a review of which is due to take place in September.

Line to Take – if raised

It is proposed that the further clarification required under this paragraph will be brought forward for consideration by the Committee as part of the review of the Ministerial Code in September.

Paragraph 1.6 of 9 February Minutes

This paragraph requires the Secretariat to draft an amendment to the Ministerial Code to the effect that it is not appropriate for Ministers to ask questions in the Assembly of other Ministers.

Line to Take – if raised

It is proposed that this amendment will also be brought forward as part of the review of the Ministerial Code in September. In the meantime, however, the Executive Committee decision as reflected in the 9 February minutes should be adhered to by Ministers.

Paragraph 1.7 of 9 February Minutes

The Minister of Education agreed to pursue a query from the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure about an announcement on Irish-medium Education.

For Information (if raised)

This announcement by the Minister of Education about plans for a new promotional body for Irish-medium education was made on 11 February.

Paragraph 1.9 of 9 February Minutes – Belfast Harbour

The Minutes record that the Executive Committee agreed that the options paper on Belfast Harbour produced by the Minister for Regional Development would be placed on the Agenda for an early meeting of the Committee. Events have moved on since 9 February.

original negotiations.

Line to Take

Ask the Executive Committee to agree that the Minister for Regional Development should be requested to provide a paper for consideration at an early Executive meeting setting out the latest position on the sale of Belfast Port.

Rubric. has agreed.

Paragraph 1.10 of 9 February Minutes

Programme of Government – circulation of written input from Ministers

For Information (if raised)

The Secretariat has circulated to all Ministers the written input which each Minister had made in response to the initial request for material to be used in devising the Programme for Government.

Paragraph 1.11 of 9 February Minutes

Planning Compensation Bill

For Information (if raised)

Work is ongoing to ensure that the Planning Compensation Bill is Human Rights compliant.

Paragraph 3 of 9 February Minutes – Drugs

The Executive Committee agreed that the Drugs Central Co-ordinating Group would be chaired by the Permanent Secretary of DHSSPS with the Minister of HSSPS taking the lead on behalf of the Executive in a higher level group involving relevant Ministers and the responsible NIO Minister.

For Information (if raised)

During suspension, Adam Ingram actually chaired a meeting of the Drugs Central Co-ordinating Group, but the arrangements agreed by the Executive will now fall back into place.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME

EC (00) 46 – Approval for Introduction of Ground Rents Bill

- Invite Minister of Finance and Personnel to introduce this item.
- Ask the Executive Committee to endorse the Bill's introduction in the Assembly on 5 June.

EC (00) 46A – Approval for Introduction of Dogs Bill

- Ask the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to introduce this item.
- Ask the Executive Committee to endorse the introduction of this Bill in the Assembly on 5 June.

EC (00) 46b Approval for Introduction of Weights and Measures Bill

- Ask the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to introduce this item.
- Ask the Executive Committee to endorse the introduction of this Bill in the Assembly on 5 June.

EC (00) 47 – Proposal for Approval to Draft a Street Trading Bill

- This memorandum has been submitted by the Department for Social Development on behalf of the Minister.
- Seek the agreement of the Executive Committee for the Minister for Social Development to proceed to draft a street trading bill.

EC (00) 48 – Update on Legislative Programme

- The Assembly is keen to bring forward a substantive programme of Executive Committee business in its forthcoming meetings.
- Ask the Executive Committee to note:
 - (i). The progress on legislation during suspension
 - (ii). The current position on Bills to come before the Assembly, as set out in Annex B to the Memorandum
 - (iii). The position on subordinate legislation

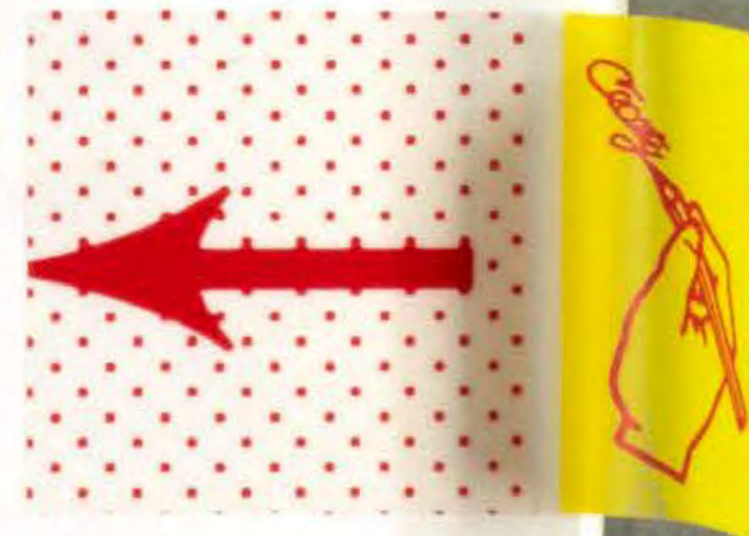
Additional issue – not on agenda

Trustee (Amendment) Bill

The Executive Committee approved this Bill for introduction at its last meeting. The DFP Minister has indicated a desire to withdraw the Bill from the programme.

- Invite Mr Durkan to speak to this matter.

B Rodger — Fisher's letter



AGENDA ITEM 3: EC (00) 49 – FINANCIAL ISSUES

- Ask Mr Durkan to introduce this paper.
- seek agreement from the Executive Committee to the use of an accelerated passage for the Appropriation Bill.
- Ask Executive Committee to note that a paper on outstanding allocations for 2000/01 (£18m remaining from Chancellor's budget and an additional sum from end-year flexibility) will be brought forward to the Committee later in June.
- Seek agreement from the Executive Committee to endorse the allocation of £53m for health and £14.7m for schools for 2000/01.
- Seek agreement that this will be covered in the press release to issue after the Executive Committee meeting. If DHSSPS and DE wish to make more detailed statements they should do so on subsequent days.

Issues which may arise

- (a) It is possible that DHSSPS will argue that the Chancellor's Budget offered them guarantees of additional funds in future years. Since much of this funding will be required for salaries, it will be difficult not to give considerable sums to the Health programmes.

Line to Take

- **Agree with Minister of Finance that the issue will be dealt with, with all other pressures, in the agreement of next year's budget in December.**
- (b) Other Departments may press the financial pressures they face this year, with perhaps DE and DRD in particular pressing for a share of the unallocated £18m for schools and transport respectively

Line to Take

- Agree with DFP Minister that the issue will be taken later in June.

(c) Handling of the Supply Resolution and the Appropriation Bill.

Line to Take

- Agree with Mr Durkan that he will need full briefing urgently from Departments since the passage of the legislation offers an opportunity for wide ranging debate.
- Agree Executive participation in Assembly debate, ^ein role of First Minister, Deputy First Minister and other Ministers. X

AGENDA ITEM 4: EC (00) 50 – EU COMMUNITY SUPPORT FRAMEWORK

- Ask Mr Durkan to introduce.
- seek colleagues' views on whether they are content with the negotiation to date, as set out in the various annexes. (Annex E, on the distinctiveness of the Peace II programme, is key.)
- If Ministers wish to further reflect on the memorandum before agreeing, stress that Committee needs to agree on 8 June and indications of their concerns now would be valuable to help resolution.
- Advise colleagues that the First Minister and Deputy First Minister with Mr Durkan will be going to Brussels on 21 June to complete negotiations.

Issue which may be Raised

Dr Farren had indicated a desire to go, since DHFETE deals with the Social Fund. UKRep advise strongly against too large delegations, and at official level OFMDFM have written to DHFETE urging a later visit by Dr Farren, enabling him to cover a wider education and Social Fund agenda.

Line to Take (if raised)

- **Agree with DFP Minister that delegation should be kept to First Minister, Deputy First Minister and Mr Durkan.**
- **Other Ministers can arrange subsequent visits to Brussels in relation to their areas of responsibility, but should agree the basis of visits with First Minister/Deputy First Minister who are responsible for European Affairs and external relations.**

AGENDA ITEM 5: NORTH/SOUTH AND BRITISH-IRISH MATTERS

EC (00) 51 – Update on North/South and British-Irish Matters

- The Committee should be asked to note that a substantive programme of North/South sectoral meetings is being drawn up to enable, in particular, those sectors which have not met before suspension to meet before the summer break.
- On British-Irish Council sectoral matters, none of the administrations took forward work during suspension.
- Plenaries for NSMC, BIC and BIIGC were to have been held in June.
- It is for discussion between the First Minister/Deputy First Minister and the Irish Government on NSMC, and between the British and Irish Governments on BIC/BIIGC as to when the next plenaries should be held.
- Advise the Executive Committee that further information on this will be brought forward to next week's meeting.

EC (00) 51 a – Report on Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission NSMC Sectoral Meeting

- Ask Mrs Rodgers to make the report, on behalf of herself and Mr Nesbitt who also attended the sectoral meeting.

TO BE CHAIRED BY DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER

AGENDA ITEM 6 – UPDATE ON ISSUES CONSIDERED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PRIOR TO SUSPENSION

EC (00) 52 – Programme for Government

- Ask Executive Committee to note progress to date on the Programme for Government and that a more detailed paper will be brought forward for discussion at next week's meeting on the structure and the organisation of the Programme for Government.
- Ask Executive Committee to note that next week consideration will be given to how the Executive Committee could demonstrate immediately that, acting collectively, it is taking forward a new agenda.

EC (00) 53 – Civic Forum

- Invite the Committee to note the current position on the Civic Forum, in particular, that although the timescale is tight, it is hoped that the Chairperson and members of the Civic Forum will be appointed by mid-September with the first meeting of the Forum in early October.

EC (00) 54 – Memorandum of Understanding and Concordats

- Ask the Executive Committee to agree that the First Minister and Deputy First Minister should table a motion asking the Assembly to take note of the MoU and, its supplementary agreements which were agreed by the Committee before suspension, subject to certain minor amendments which have now been cleared by the UK.
- To note that, the debate will take place on Monday 5 June.

- To note that the bilateral concordat between the Northern Ireland Office and the Executive Committee has not yet been agreed; NIO officials have indicated that there may be some difficulties.
- To agree that other bilateral concordats between Northern Ireland Departments and their UK counterparts should be notified to the Assembly by means of inspired written questions, with copies placed in the library.

EC (00) 55 – Corporate Identity

- Invite the Executive Committee to note that the tender process to engage a design company to develop the Corporate Identity for the Executive and its Departments, as agreed at the last Executive meeting, has now been initiated.

EC (00) 56 – Freedom of Information Bill

- Invite the Executive Committee to note the current position on the Freedom of Information legislation which is going through Westminster.
- Invite the Executive Committee to note that a draft consultative paper on the desirability of bringing forward additional separate Northern Ireland Freedom of Information Legislation will be brought forward for consideration in September.

New TSN

- Invite Tony Canavan, acting Head of the Equality Directorate in OFMDFM to make a short presentation on ~~Equality Issues and in particular on~~ New TSN.
- Invite any points of clarification

AGENDA ITEM 7: EC (00) 57 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUSINESS IN THE ASSEMBLY

- Ask the Executive Committee to note the programme of Executive Committee business in the Assembly for 5/6 June and 12/13 June as set out in this memorandum, with two amendments, (a) the Weights and Measures Bill will be introduced on 5 June; and (b) the MoU debate will now be taken on 6 June.

- circulate revised paper.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ORAL UPDATE BY MINISTERS ON MAJOR DEPARTMENTAL ISSUES

- Invite each Minister in turn to provide an oral update.
- Invite the Committee to agree that the Minister for Regional Development and the Minister for Social Development should be asked to provide written updates on major departmental issues for next week's Executive meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 9: EC (00) 58: FLAGS

- Invite the Committee to note the sequence of events in relation to Flags as set out in the paper.
- Invite the Committee to discuss the issue.
- [Seek the agreement of the Committee to consider the matter further possibly on the basis of an options paper for discussion a future meeting.]

AGENDA ITEM 10: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Note that the next meeting will be held at 2.00 pm on 8 June.

AGENDA ITEM 11: DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

- Circulate copies of draft press release.
- Seek agreement of Executive Committee to issue press release.
- Repeat, if necessary, that other Ministers should not make statements on the financial position until later.