

NORTHERN IRELAND LAW COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
HELD ON 18 MAY 2010 AT 9.15 am**

PRESENT: Bernard McCloskey (BM - Chairman)
Bobby Hunniford (RH)
Venkat Iyer (VI)
Sean Doran (SD)
Neil Faris (NF)

APOLOGY: Judena Goldring (JG)

1. Minutes of last meeting

ACTION BY

The minutes of the last meeting were discussed and were agreed by all present to be an accurate account of the meeting.

2. Matters arising

There was no matter that arose from the minutes of the last meeting.

3. CEO Report

This was deferred due to JG's absence as above noted subject to the following:

- For further action noted that the recruitment of a legal researcher should take place on the vacancy occurring in the summer. JG to advise as to the options for such recruitment. **JG**
- A number of personnel issues were discussed.
- The Conference arrangements were discussed and BM is to circulate a Memo to confirm the speaker list. **BM**

4. Business and Strategic Plans

These was deferred subject to the following:

- Noted that NF had proposed textual amendments to the first draft of the Business Plan – also to apply to the second draft and to the Strategic Plan. He is to re-circulate his amendments for consideration and response by all. **NF and All**

- The issue of necessary drafting services for further consideration **JG**
- Noted that the completion of these Plans should be expedited **JG**

5. Reports on Projects

(i) Vulnerable Witnesses Project

- The Consultation Paper has been issued with a closing date for responses of 30 June 2010. Agreed that some extension of time until mid July 2010 could be granted if requested.
- A Steering Group meeting is to be held in early July 2010 and BM indicated that he would attend. A suitable date is to be confirmed. **BM**

(ii) Bail

- The draft Consultation Paper will be before the June Board meeting. (Noted that time pressures precluded 3 week advance circulation)
- Publication should be in September
- Issues of treatment of extradition and immigration bail discussed
- Stakeholder events are planned after publication

(iii) Business Tenancies

- The Consultation Paper has been completed and is with the printers for publication on 1 June 2010
- Stakeholder events will be held with key stakeholders in June and July 2010
- The closing date for the Consultation is 30 September 2010

(iv) Multi-Unit Developments

- Research has commenced
- Stakeholder events will be held in autumn 2010
- The team is participating in an SLS seminar in June in Armagh and Belfast

- (v) Land Law
- the need for forward planning was discussed and BM is to meet with Mr Paulin and Mr Moir thereon **BM**
 - BM will report back thereafter **BM**
- 6. Governance Issues**
- This was deferred to a further meeting.
- 7. Draft Second Programme of Law Reform**
- RH outlined the position regarding the draft of the Consultation Paper and he was authorised to proceed with a further draft for the Board's approval. NF is to assist. **RH (and NF)**
- 8. Conference Arrangements**
- BM will circulate a memo to confirm the speakers list. Noted that Cathy Lundy is to be responsible for organisational matters and that she is meeting SLS for this purpose. **BM**
- 9. Drafting Services**
- Agreed that each Project required drafting services for the Bill to accompany each Project's Final Report. BM agreed that he will raise the financial and procurement issues with the Department of Justice. **BM**
- 10. Protocol between NILC and NI Assembly Departments on co-operation on law reform projects**
- BM to send the draft to the private office of the Minister for Justice for consideration and discussion. VI agreed to re-circulate a draft from New Zealand of an equivalent protocol. **BM and VI**
- 11. Chairman's communications**
- (i) Website
- Responsibility for legal input was discussed. BM will consider if one of the legal researchers may have a role **BM**
- (ii) Engagement with Irish Law Reform Commission
- BM has prepared a response to Consultations with the assistance of Patricia Sweeney and will forward same **BM**

(iii) Commonwealth Law Conference

BM

- The attendance of BM at the CALRA Conference (and part of the main conference) remains under consideration

(iv) Draft Disaster Recovery Plan

- This was deferred to a further meeting.

12. Any Other Business

The Commission's equality policy was discussed and BM will circulate a memo thereon.

BM

13. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed for Monday 21 June 2010 (note that this includes a Projects Meeting) and agreed that an early start at 9.15 am is suitable.

The meeting concluded at 10.45 am.