

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

8 March 2006

STATEMENT by Sid McDowell following his appointment as Chairman of the independent Public Service Commission which will make recommendations to government on the guiding principles and steps necessary to safeguard the interests of staff and to ensure their smooth transfer to new organisations established as a consequence of government decisions on the Review of Public Administration.

Mr Mc Dowell said,

“Implementing the Review of Public Administration represents a huge challenge. It is a time of enormous change – and change brings about uncertainty. The decision to appoint an independent Public Service Commission to make recommendations to government to safeguard the interests of staff and to ensure the smooth transfer of those staff to new organisations is a wise one.

I am privileged to have been asked to chair the Commission and look forward to a productive working relationship with my fellow Commissioners.

I am also encouraged by the guarantees the government has given about its commitment to implement any recommendations the Commission might make. These guarantees give the Commission authority and credibility.

The out-workings of the review will be far reaching and the primary effects will be felt in the health, education, central and local government sectors. And each sector is starting from a different position.

When the Commission meets and deliberates on its recommendations to safeguard the interests of staff and ensure their smooth transfer to new organisations, I want us to remember that the lives of around 100,000 people are affected. We must seek to ensure that they are treated with dignity and respect. Many of them will have served the public sector loyally over a long period, often in trying circumstances.

I fully expect the Commission to have fairness and equity as its watchwords.

The challenge facing the Commission will be to work in conjunction with a variety of partners, and in particular employers, existing sectoral Commissions and relevant trade unions, so that its recommendations are applied consistently across the public sector.”

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