



MINUTES OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION TRADE UNIONS' DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20TH JANUARY, EAST BOARDROOM, IN SILVAN HOUSE, EDINBURGH

Present:	Robert Beaney	FCTU Chair
	Edward Shephard	FCTU Secretary
	Allan Mackenzie	PCS
	Lorraine Adams	Prospect
	Roy Laird	GMB
	Malcolm Currie	Prospect FTO
	Tim Gill (by telephone)	Unite
Minute Secretary	Sam Telford	FCTU Office

1. Introduction

Robert welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Edward Shephard and Danny Williamson.

3. Minutes of 10th December 2008

The above were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Pay

The group held a confidential discussion on the details of Pay 2008/2009.

It was noted that pay negotiations for the 2008 pay round were completed in December 2008 and that HR have now presented a final offer to all staff: [2008 Final Pay Offer](#). Robert said that the offer will be considered by each of the unions before it is put to a ballot of members in the following weeks.

5. Scottish Climate Change Bill

Allan reported that the last SCCB consultation meeting would be held on 21st January in Stranraer and that the consultation period would end on 27th January. Allan said that the FCTU response to the consultation was being finalised and that it would be available to members on the FCTU website. The committee expressed their thanks to Malcolm Crosby and to those who contributed to the written response.

Allan reported that there would be two events held at the Scottish Parliament, the first of which would be an outdoor protest against the leasing plans organised by Jim Hume MSP for 21st January and that members of the public and representatives of other organisations would be present to highlight the widespread concern at the NFE leasing proposals. Allan said that the second event was a drop-in briefing for MSPs to be held on 22nd January, hosted by Sarah Boyack MSP and that hopefully twenty to thirty MSPs would attend. He said that various members of FCTU, along with the political officers involved in the campaign would be present to meet and discuss the issues with MSPs.

It was noted that FC Scotland managers have produced a revised set of maps showing which areas of Scotland may be included in any land-lease option. He advised that maps are for internal use due to their political sensitivity but that they do however confirm that it is the South-West and West Coast areas that will be most affected. Allan added that to balance this up,

due to the selection criteria used many of the areas of Aberdeenshire that were identified in the original cut have now been excluded from the latest set of maps.

Robert said that a meeting between FCTU and Mike Russell, the Scottish Minister would be held on 5th February to explore the Minister's thoughts on the consultation, what he expects from the unions and to discuss other options that may reduce the need for the land-lease proposal.

6. England Reviews

There was no update to the FE Estates Review, however it was agreed that the FCTU needed to push for further information on the review to determine how the unions could be involved within the process. Tim said that he would be discussing the review with Director FC England and that he would raise the concern with him.

7. FR Restructuring

Lorraine provided the committee with an update to the restructuring within Forest Research. Lorraine said that the consultation for the restructuring exercise would be released on 23rd January and that the consultation period would last one month. She added that the information being released was regarding the three centres, how the individual projects will be merged into large projects, what the mission statement will be for each centre and who will move into each centre. It was noted that there was still no information on permissions and funding for redundancies.

8. PMS

Robert said that a final meeting of the PMS working group would be held on 23rd January and that the final recommendations will be submitted to HR to formulate the new system, which would abolish all elements of the previous system. Robert added that it would be simpler, user friendly, less time consuming, without performance related pay and with a strong link to the Competency Framework.

9. AOB

There were no further items to be added to the agenda.