



**MINUTES OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION TRADE UNIONS'
BUSINESS UNITS AREA MEETING
Silvan House 1st March 2010**

Present:	Alistair Gillies	Chair GMB
	Lawrence Villa	Member UNITE
	Bruce Hamilton	Member PCS
	Paul Bullock	Member UNITE
Minute Secretary:	Andrew Stewart	PROSPECT
Apologies:	Norrie Russell	Member UNITE
	Roy Laird	Member GMB

1. Introduction AG welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting Agreed as true record

3. Matters Arising From Last Meeting

a. **FCE Review.** From the last meeting held in December it was noted that Mr Ansell had proposed at a meeting of the FEMB to transfer staff from the FCE head office in Peebles to Silvan house. This proposal was rejected. A further meeting was proposed for February 2010. This review has been superseded by the Business Units review and we have been told we have to wait for the first draft report, which is due in April. Currently the lease on the Peebles office has been given a grace of 12 months. And the only option still tabled is the Cavalry Park in Peebles. BH and AS to contact the FCE review group to seek further information about the relocation of the FA Galasheils office, and the possibility of FC staff relocation within the Peebles area.

b. **MES review.** A meeting was held on the 9th February It was felt discussions had been hampered by the inclusion of an email from FCS HQ for discussion which the TUS had not see sight of. The email was subsequently to be sent to AG to date this has not happened. It was further thought that no agenda items being sought from the TUS prior to the meeting had hampered discussions. Some points from the meeting were that clarity would be sought from management on how much external income can be taken on by the Business Units. Chapelhall vehicle refitting is to go out to tender as well as the external bridge contract. **ONGOING**

c. **H & S.** BH gave a report on the newly set up BU H & S committee. The TUS were complimented on their persistence in seeking the setting up of this committee. This committee will have three meetings a year, the next meeting to run alongside the management meeting, the next alongside the main staff council meeting. It was noted that the bulk of the issues were brought forward by FCE other BU staff would be asked whether there were other issues that need to be taken forward. One issue with regards to H & S are the amount of safety memoranda that have no revision dates.
ONGOING

D. **Business Units Review.** A meeting has been scheduled with the main FCTU on the 18th march 2010 the meeting to be held at FCS HQ Inverness. Prior to this meeting it was decided that members must be consulted with regards to their concerns and how take this review forward. So far members have sought answers to the following.

- 1) Who will be on the steering group?
- 2) Who will be representing the TUS on the steering group?
- 3) When will the first meeting be held?
- 4) Who will be the external consultant?
- 5) Will the review be held in line with HR best practice for reviews agreed with the TUS?
- 6) Have the TUS been consulted on the terms of reference?
- 7) In line with HSE management standards guidance on stress will a risk assessment be carried out?
- 8) It was stated that CONFOR were critical of the Business unit's methods, what were these criticisms.
- 9) It was also stated that the formation of REBU had been discussed with the TUS when it was merely announced, were discussions held with the TUS?
- 10) Why was the post of head of REBU not trawled and how was the post graded?

The FCTU Business units have decided to take these forward with Mr. Ansell who has been set as a point of contact, with copies being sent to the DG and Chief executive FCS and the FCTU.

Action: **Secretary**

E. **T.R.A** This point was brought mainly due to the amount of posts now in excess of two years, LV put the point that answers should be put why the filling of these posts was put on hold. It was felt that management wanted this cleared up on the tail end of the MES Review. Although these are not new job recruitment positions but places that already exist and as such need to be made Substantive as part of the BU review.

Action Take forward at next FBUSC

F. FBUSC Agenda Items. Below are the management action points from the last meeting, the TU side is requesting that these points could be sent out prior to the meeting to assist in saving time and wish to discuss this further at the meeting:

VDMP

EFQM

Peebles Office Review

H&S Committee

Business Briefing

The previous questions under the BU review would also be put to the FBUSC.

Temporary Responsibility Allowance posts.

AG thanked all for attending.

Date of Next Meeting TBC