

MINUTES OF NRS STAFF COUNCIL MEETING – 28 OCTOBER 2004

Present: Chris Quine (Chair)
Glenn Brearley (Vice-Chair (Prospect))
Steve Osborne (PCS)
Martin Abrahams
Evelyn Hall (Secretary)

Apologies: Nelson Innes (TGWU)

1. Minutes of Meeting of 11 March 2004

Minutes were accepted as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

a. **Educational Outing**

Martin Abrahams suggested that we re-evaluate the Educational Outing. He asked whether this was a worthwhile exercise, given the limited numbers attending. Chris Quine suggested that although there were not a great deal of people attending, he thought them worthwhile. He suggested a representative from each Division should attend and have an input where appropriate. We will continue asking staff for ideas on where to visit and to encourage more staff to attend.

Action: Deferred

b. **Child Care Facilities**

Non-Pay Benefits and Rewards Guidance Note No. 12 has recently been issued to all staff by Margaret O'Hare, Personnel Services Division. Martin Abrahams said that there were still plans in the pipeline for a nursery facility on the Bush Estate, although there has been little progress recently. He has also information on a local nursery at Roslin. This is partly funded by the Bioscience Centre, and as a result their staff receive a discount. He is in contact with the nursery manager and will notify staff if benefits become available to FR staff.

Action: Discharged

3. Operational Pay Abolition and the Implications for Overtime

Concerns were expressed on behalf of some members of staff regarding the lack of funds to allow overtime payments. Where staff will now be working 37 hours per week they should not be penalized for not completing tasks previously undertaken when working 42 hours. Chris Quine agreed that this was a concern. There are few members of staff affected by the changes introduced on 1 October with the main impact mainly being on FM and TSU. Steve Osborne suggested that provision should have been made in this year's budget, and provision should be made next year. Chris agreed that where possible provision should be made or that expectations should be reduced to take into account the changes. It was also

suggested that staff should be made aware of flexible working and in particular the availability of the flexi system at NRS.

Action: Deferred

4. Any Other Business

Steve Osborne brought the strike action on Friday 5th November to the attention of the Meeting. Most of his members are expected to join the strike and a picket line will be in place outside NRS. This should not cause any disruption to other members of staff.

Martin Abrahams mentioned Office Tidy Day. This will take place on Thursday 16th December. He also said the Station will be closed 3 days between our Christmas and New Year holiday, e.g. 29th, 30th & 31st December.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Thursday 17th March 2005.