

**SILVAN HOUSE STAFF COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON 17 JUNE 2010**

Present:	<u>Official Side</u>	<u>Trade Union Side</u>
	Jean Lindsay – Chair Keith Gliddon David Felstead Wilma Harper Anne Anderson, Secretary	Mary Irvine, Chair PCS, Linda McGinley, PCS John Gibson, PROSPECT Joanne McAuley, PCS Jim Henderson , PROSPECT

**1. Minutes of the Last Meeting (21 Dec 2009)**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

**2. Humidity (update)**

Jean Lindsay again confirmed to the meeting that we had been unable to conclude the humidity contract and therefore unable to spend the 2009/10 allocated funding. There was no funding available for Humidity in 2010/11 but a bid for extra funding would be submitted as part of the 2011/12 business planning round. However, because of the current economic climate it was extremely doubtful that funding would be approved. The TU acknowledged the difficult financial climate the organisation was now operating in.

Jean did however offer to purchase individual desk humidifiers for those staff who were most affected. She asked if the TU could give an indication of the number of people involved in Silvan House. The TU agreed to consult with staff to establish the level of demand for these from Silvan House staff and would get back with their views.

**Action: TUS**

**3. Subletting of 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor (update)**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor remains vacant. DWP are currently looking at the office space, but no decision has been reached.

The TU commented that the 'To Let' sign was unclear that it was only one floor that was vacant. They have received feedback that some people think the whole building is for let. Jean Lindsay would raise the issue with Gordon Archibald.

**Action: J Lindsay**

**4. G&R & EU Co-Funding Posts**

*The TUS had asked for this item to be added to the Agenda.*

Mary Irvine raised this issue as more of a general issue to understand what mechanism is in place to make sure that people who are sitting in potentially surplus posts are actually being developed so as they have transferable skills. Jean said the FC was very good at investing in its staff and the amount of money spent on L&D was evidence of that. Jean pointed out that staff have a responsibility to themselves to ensure they continue to learn and develop to ensure they have transferable skills, it is not only reliant on management to ensure this. However, the FC was very supportive in developing all staff.

## **5. Any Other Business**

### Recruitment Freeze

A note was issued to all staff on the 27<sup>th</sup> May, which included a detailed Q&A. Countries, Agencies, FBU and SH are still in the process of finalising their agreed baseline staff numbers.

Post filling approval for Silvan House will come to the Efficiency Steering Group to ensure Divisions don't look at their own posts in isolation.

Keith Gliddon advised that Treasury had issued the 'Spending Review Framework' on their website. They are expecting Departments to go back to Treasury with top line proposals by July. This will be bottomed out over the autumn and finalised by the end of October. This does of course only cover the Westminster Vote.

The DG will shortly be issuing a note to all staff.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Class Travel

Departments have been issued with a set of principles and guidelines with regards to T&S expenses. Departments are expected to review their current T&S policies in line with this and apply them by April 2011. HR policy will be consulting with the TU. However, an interim recommendation was being put to the EB next week.

### Civil Service Compensation Scheme (CSCS)

The PCS were successful in their application for a judicial review of the revision to the CSCS. However, we are still awaiting the outcome of the judgement on what exactly the quashing order covers.

### October Pay Deal

Jean advised that Treasury are due to make an announcement on Civil Service Pay very shortly.

## **6. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on 20 December 2010 at 10am.