

## **RELOCATION: SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE SPECIAL SNH BOARD MEETING, 24 APRIL 2003**

The Board agreed the following decisions:

- a. That they were unable in the prevailing circumstances, to give the Chief Executive a "Direction" to relocate SNH HQ functions from Edinburgh to Inverness.
- b. That the Chairman would write to the Chief Executive, copy to Secretary SEERAD and Auditor General for Scotland, outlining the reasons behind this decision.
- c. That following the announcement of the formation of the new Scottish Cabinet after the election, they would seek an urgent meeting with the appropriate Minister(s) to reiterate the case for SNH not relocating to Inverness, to achieve clarity concerning the First Minister's comments on "...no compulsory transfers and no compulsory redundancy..." and to assess the scope for proposing alternative options.
- d. That following this meeting and dependent on its outcome, they would reconsider whether they would seek a ministerial "Direction" to undertake the move.
- e. That meanwhile the Chairman would write to John Graham (Secretary SEERAD) to request the meeting at c above, to confirm their resistance to undertake a relocation to Inverness and to outline the reasons for declining to give the Chief Executive a "Direction".
- f. That they would authorise the Chief Executive to undertake such management activity as was necessary in the short term to counter the instability caused to the organisation by the announcement on relocation at a time when answers to crucial questions were not forthcoming. It is fully accepted that this may include certain changes to management and staff responsibilities.
- g. That they wished management to work up a paper covering a variety of less damaging relocation options for the Board to consider at their meeting on 20 May. From these options, the Board would decide which, if any of these, it wished to propose to the new Minister when they meet.