

EIGHTY NINTH SNH BOARD MEETING, 15 JULY 2003, BATTLEBY

CONFIRMED MINUTES

Members Present

John Markland, Chairman
Michael Scott, Deputy Chairman
Peter Chapman (by telephone)
Isabel Glasgow, Chairwoman, West Areas Board (by telephone)
Janet Sprent, Chairwoman, Scientific Advisory Committee (by telephone)
Sue Walker (by telephone)

In Attendance

Ian Jardine, Chief Executive
Ian Edgeler, Director
Colin Galbraith, Director
John Thomson, Director (by telephone)
Jeff Watson, Director
Jane Clark, Head of National Strategy
Iain Rennick, Head of Secretariat, Press and PR
George Anderson, Head of Press and Public Relations
Pam Gaiter, Board Secretary
Reuben Singleton

Apologies

Simon Fraser, Chairman, North Areas Board
Keith Geddes, Chairman, Audit and Risk Management Committee
Nick Kempe
Alice Lambert
Jeremy Rowan Robinson, Chairman, East Areas Board
Andrew Bachell, Director

****CLOSED SESSION****

ITEM 1: RELOCATION

1. The Chairman had received a further letter from Mr Finnie regarding the requirement for SNH to relocate Edinburgh based functions/posts to Inverness. In its consideration of the letter, the Board agreed that:
 - it was unlikely that any more detail on the reasoning behind the decision would be given by Ministers, and that it would be fruitless to pursue this further;
 - it was satisfied that the point regarding redundancy had been clarified and that SNH could negotiate with staff representatives on the basis that the possibility of compulsory redundancies could not be ruled out;
 - it was not yet satisfied that a clear and unequivocal commitment on funding the relocation had been given by the Scottish Executive. A further letter, requesting an assurance that all additional costs would be funded by the Scottish Executive, should be sent to the Minister;
 - Management should now finalise the paper on the need for flexibility in terms of timing and numbers as requested by the Minister;
 - it now wished to seek a Direction from the Minister, instructing it to implement the decision;
 - it would like the opportunity to consider the content of the Direction before it issued its own Direction to the Chief Executive;
 - the Chairman and Deputy Chairman should provide authorisation for the Chief Executive to make such limited expenditure as may be necessary to take forward preparation for the relocation in the short term.
2. The Board expressed its thanks to staff for their continuing patience throughout the process.

John Markland
Chairman