Summary of the 79th meeting of the NIEA Board (with EMG Core Directors in attendance) held on 17 December 2015 in Klondyke Building, Belfast.

Members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helen Anderson</td>
<td>Acting Chief Executive, NIEA and Deputy Secretary, EMG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Mills</td>
<td>Director of Resource Efficiency Division, NIEA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attendees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendee</th>
<th>Position and Division</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leo O’Reilly</td>
<td>Permanent Secretary, DOE (Agenda items 1 and 2 only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Foster</td>
<td>Director of Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy Division, DOE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Irwin</td>
<td>Deputy Director of Environmental Policy Division, DOE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claire Vincent</td>
<td>Acting Director of Marine Environment Division, DOE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Bleakley</td>
<td>Natural Environment Division, NIEA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Aiken</td>
<td>Finance and Business Planning Division, DOE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuart McDougall</td>
<td>Natural Environment Division, NIEA (Note-taker)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Number</th>
<th>Action Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Apologies and Conflicts of Interest</strong>&lt;br&gt;No Conflicts of Interest were declared.&lt;br&gt;Apologies were recorded from Teresa Hewitt and Brian Moore, Dept HR.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2             | **Progress Reports**<br><strong>RED</strong><br>Chris advised that the River Basin Management Plans were being published on 17 December. A target of 70% is in the RBMP which will be a challenging target for all of NI; DOE alone cannot meet this target.<br>Chris advised of the latest with the Moubuo court case.  
<br><strong>RNRPD</strong><br>Dave advised that the NS study into residential solid fuels (the “Smokey Coal” Report) has been agreed by officials. This will now be published early in 2016 and will form a part of any future Air Quality Strategy. The Environmental Better Regulation Bill will have its Consideration stage starting on 11 January. There has been recent media interest in Japanese Knotweed in north Belfast.  
<br><strong>NED</strong><br>Bob reported on the proposed Marine Special Protection Areas which have been sent to the Minister and Secretary of State for approval to open Consultations. Bob noted expected problems if the proposed ‘lock-down’ of shared drives proceeds as planned. Other Directors noted their concerns at the proposed lock-down. Directors are to provide Tim with details of concerns. Bob also reported on the problems with the new DOE website.  
<br><strong>MED</strong><br>Claire reported that the Marine Coastal Zone Consultation was opened on 14 December. A draft report on dealing with Planning consultations has been completed - Claire will discuss the draft report with the Chair.  

All Directors
Claire advised of the meeting involving Government Departments and the subsequent meeting involving Local Authority Chief Executives discussing coastal erosion. DRD will prepare an Executive Paper on coastal erosion. The Board discussed the evidence-gap for NI's coastal erosion and the role of the Rivers Agency which is excluded from addressing coastal erosion. Claire noted that she will shortly be required to make a decision on the Cranfield sea-defences planning application.

**EPD**

Tim noted the current work involving EPD and IPRI on the EU's Basic Safety Standards Directive.

Tim advised that the Scrap Metal Bill consultation has been extended until 18 February. Consideration is being given to Waste Management Licensing being included in the Bill. The Department of Justice has provided its views on the suggested voluntary code for scrap metal dealers.

Tim noted the recent UN Climate Change Conference in Paris. The proposal to brief the Permanent Secretaries Group on the Circular Economy is waiting for clearance from the Head of the Civil Service.

Leo O'Reilly left the meeting at this point.

**Chair's briefing**

The Chair advised that Leo O'Reilly is aware of increasing staff pressures due to:
- the additional £1M contracts approved as part of the November Monitoring Round,
- addressing the 61 applications for the Environment Fund,
- the steering group / technical advice for INTERREG VA, and
- supporting DARD in the establishment of the Environmental Farming Scheme.

The Chair will issue guidance to Directors on information required to deliver these key priorities between now and the formation of DAERA. Liz Smyth will co-ordinate the exercise to determine what resources are required for these priorities.

Individuals were confirmed as the lead member of staff for EFS and INTERREG VA (in each Division).

3. **Finance**

2015-16 Finances

Peter advised of the 4 January 2016 deadline for DFP. Following this deadline, Finances will only be able to be moved within Divisions.

Peter reported on the bids for the January Monitoring Round for Resources, the potential additional resource requirements for NEF projects and the Capital requirements. Following discussion, the Chair advised that she believes there is sufficient money in the NEF to meet the Group’s priority bids. Peter advised of the amount of Capital funding that has already been allocated to individual projects.

The Chair noted that Regional Operations will need to decide on ‘decision points’ if progress is not being made with business partners for delivery on the Capital projects.
### 2016-17 Finances
Peter noted that DFP had issued guidance on the expected 2016-17 budget, subject to Executive approval. It was noted that the Carrier Bag Levy funding for 2016-17 will not include projects for HED.

### 4. HR
The Chair provided the HR update on:
- Completion rates for annual reports,
- The recent T/P competitions within EMG and
- The forthcoming competition for Head of Environmental Crime Unit.

### 5. Departmental restructuring
The Board discussed the draft targets in Paper 15-13-2. Liz Smyth is to revise the targets following the discussion.

### 6. Health and Safety
Dave briefed the Board that:
- HSE has completed its investigation on a recent RIDDOR relevant incident at Castle Archdale. The EMG H&S team can now conduct its investigation.
- Three H&S Arrangements have been reviewed. The Board was content with the new H&S Arrangements.
- Two incident reports were highlighted.

Dave advised of the main issues raised at the recent H&S Consultative Committee. Recently all management side attendees at this meeting were deputies for the ‘named’ attendees. Dave asked Directors to consider Divisional attendees at these meetings. Stephen Emerson is to advise Directors of the named attendees on this H&S group.

### 7. Draft Minutes of the 78th meeting
Approved as circulated.

### 8. Action Points from 78th meeting
All Actions were listed as completed.

### 9. AOB
No business was raised at this point.