

## Public Service Commission

A Public Service Commission, to advise on the transfer of staff to the new organisations being created following the Review of Public Administration has been set up.

Speaking on 8 March, the Secretary of State, Peter Hain said: **“Implementing the Review of Public Administration will be the greatest single challenge to the public sector here in more than 30 years. We need to ensure that members of staff affected by the changes are treated in a fair and coherent manner across all the areas involved.”**

He also said he would expect the Commission to make recommendations to government on the guiding principles and steps necessary to safeguard the interests of staff and to ensure their smooth transfer to new organisations established as a consequence of government decisions on the Review of Public Administration, taking into account statutory obligations, including those arising from section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

On taking up the position of Chairperson, Sid McDowell, former Deputy General Secretary of NIPSA and chair of the Local Government Staff Commission, said **“The challenge facing the Commission will be to work to safeguard the interests of staff, to ensure they are treated with dignity and respect so that their transfer to new organisations is a smooth one”**.

He said the Commission would be seeking the co-operation of employers, existing sectoral commissions and relevant trade unions to ensure consistency across the public sector.

The Commission delivered its first guiding principle in May - ‘An Effective Communications Strategy’. The Department fully endorses the first guiding principle, and will continue to work closely with the PSC throughout the RPA in the interests of all staff. If you wish to find out more information about the Public Service Commission please go to [www.pscni.gov.uk](http://www.pscni.gov.uk).