

Press Release

Commissioner Publishes Quango Report

Felicity Huston, Northern Ireland's Commissioner for Public Appointments today published her annual report to March 2006.

It is available on the web at:

<http://www.ocpani.gov.uk/11annualreportjan07.pdf>

She said

“This report covers the work we did in my first eight months in post. Importantly it also flags up our key plans for the coming year. Plans which will boost confidence in the appointments process.

Given all that has gone on in the field of public appointments recently such ‘confidence building measures’ are really needed.”

Felicity is the first native of Northern Ireland to hold this post and took up office in August 2005.

The report includes:

- Statistical analysis of the past 10 years appointments held – by gender.
- Summaries of the audits carried out on 4 government departments and their public appointments processes – Dept of Education, DETI, DHSSPS and Dept of Environment. The full audit reports will be published on the OCPANI website within the next week.
- Information on events, meeting etc during the period August 2005 to March 2006.
- OCPANI's plan for 2006/07.

Notes for Editors

The post of Commissioner for Public appointment was created by Government in 1995 – in response to recommendations by the Committee for Standards in Public Life. The Commissioner is independent of Government.

The Commissioner's role in Northern Ireland is to regulate, monitor, advise and report on departmental appointment procedures for Executive Non-Departmental Bodies (ENDPS) and HPSS bodies. In addition the Commissioner has a duty to investigate and deal with complaints.

For those people who do not have access to the website, copies of the report are available in hard copy by telephoning Denise Phillips in the Commissioner's Office on 028 9052 3201. The report is published on the OCPANI website at:
<http://www.ocpani.gov.uk/11annualreportjan07>

**For further comment please contact the Commissioner on
Mobile Number 0797 491 2831
Or work 02890 806080 from 9.00 am on Monday 8/01/07**

For background information on the work of the office please contact Martina Hanna Senior Policy Advisor to the Commissioner on 02890 528187 from 9.00am on 8/01/07.