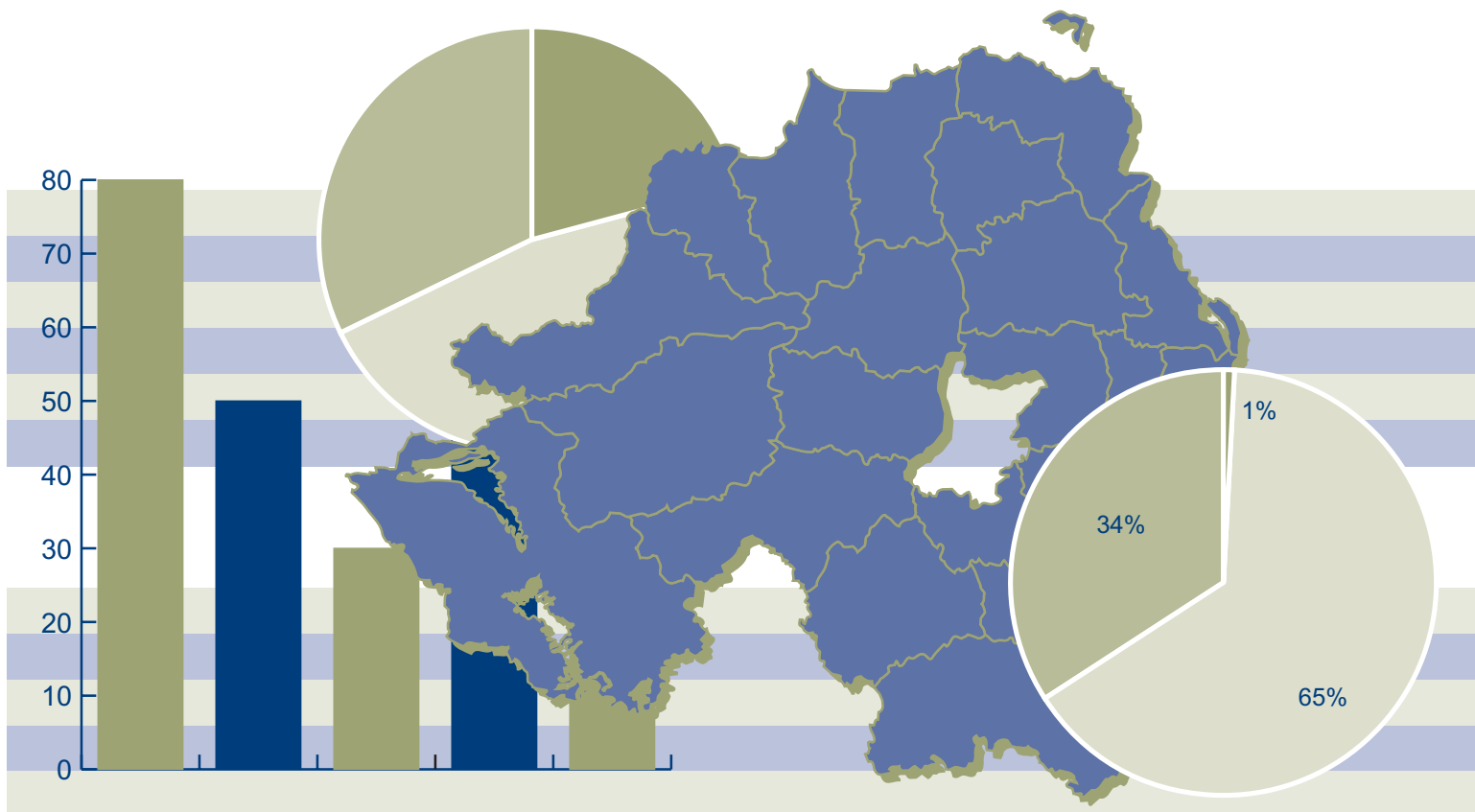


NISRA Annual Report and Accounts For the year ended 31 March 2006



NISRA Annual Report and Accounts
For the year ended 31 March 2006

Laid before the Houses of Parliament,
by the Department of Finance and Personnel,
in accordance with Paragraph 12(2) and (4) of the Schedule to the
Northern Ireland Act 2000 and Paragraph 36 of the Schedule to the
Northern Ireland Act 2000 (Prescribed Documents Order 2004)

19 July 2006

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Accounting Officer's Foreword

I am pleased to present this Annual Report on the performance of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) over 2005-06. The Report details the achievements of the Agency in a number of areas during the year.

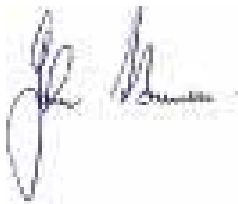
NISRA's customers have once again reported high levels of satisfaction with the services and products provided. It is particularly pleasing to note that as in 2004-05 almost one-third of existing customers rated the service as better than the previous year. The General Register Office also retained the Charter Mark for certificate production. All this indicates that the Agency's efforts to deliver continuous improvement are being maintained and that this is recognised by customers.

The Agency has also continued to improve and increase services provided electronically. Indeed all the publications produced in 2005-06 had an electronic version. An updated and redesigned Agency website was also launched in November 2005 providing a more user friendly window on the wide variety of official statistics and research produced. The section of this Annual Report dealing with the progress in key business areas provides further detail on the range of this statistical and research work.

In maintaining a high quality service NISRA has been mindful of the need for sound financial planning, value for money and corporate governance. I am pleased to report that during the year the Agency has remained within the approved expenditure limits and delivered significant efficiency savings.

Once again the Agency's staff have demonstrated how crucially important they are to NISRA's success. Through the provision of a high quality registration, statistics and research service across Government Departments, Government Agencies and other public sector bodies, they have assisted these organisations in discharging their functions in an effective, efficient and accountable manner. I am indebted to the Chief Executive and all Agency staff for the dedication, professionalism and commitment they have shown throughout the year.

I am also grateful to colleagues, not only in the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP), but across all Northern Ireland Departments and also from the statistics and research community in Northern Ireland, whose co-operation, advice and support has contributed to NISRA meeting its objectives.



John Hunter
Accounting Officer
22 June 2006

Introduction

The Organisation

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is an Executive Agency within the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) and was established on 1 April 1996 under the Government's Next Steps Initiative. The Agency also incorporates the General Register Office (GRO) for Northern Ireland. During this reporting period Dr Norman Caven was the Registrar General and Chief Executive and was responsible to the Minister for the management of the Agency's performance and operations.

Management

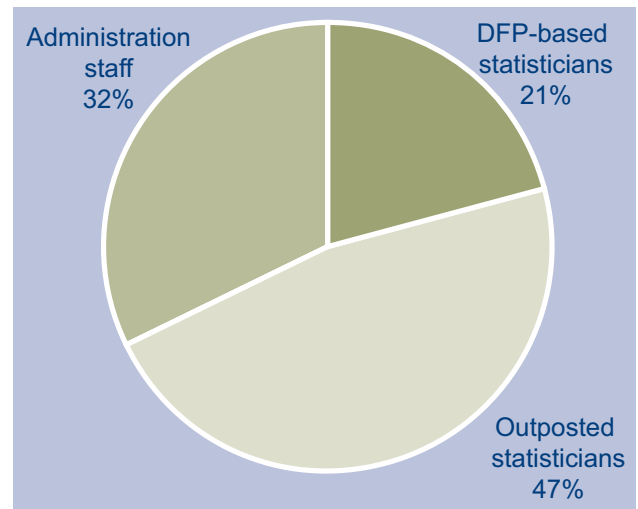
Dr Caven, who was appointed as Chief Executive on 5 December 2005, was assisted in the management of the Agency by:

- A Senior Management Group (SMG) comprised of six Senior Principal Statisticians. The group advises the Chief Executive on strategy and major issues of Agency policy. SMG is responsible for ensuring the effective operation and performance of NISRA; and
- A Management Board (MB) made up of SMG and Grade 7 statistical/administrative Heads of Branches. The MB supports and advises the Chief Executive in the formulation, implementation and review of Agency policies. The MB is in turn supported by a series of working groups that deal with cross-Agency issues remitted to them by the Board. Annex 1 provides details of SMG and MB membership.

Staff

The number of staff employed by NISRA at the end of March 2006 was 355, of whom 112 were administrative grades and 243 were statistical grades. In addition, NISRA employed a field-force of 240 fee-paid survey interviewers. Approximately one third of NISRA statisticians and all NISRA administrative staff work in seven DFP-based Branches. The remaining two-thirds of NISRA statisticians are located across the Northern Ireland Departments and in a number of Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

Figure 1: NISRA Staff (March 2006)



The Business

Our Core Purpose is:

- to provide a high quality, cost effective, registration, statistics and research service that informs the policy and the democratic processes; and
- to provide a window on Northern Ireland's society and its economy by providing evidence to inform decision-making.

NISRA's statistics and research services are afforded to a wide range of government Departments and Agencies to assist the policy process and delivery of their objectives and actions. The National Statistics Code of Practice, launched in October 2002, sets out a Statement of Principles which are to be adhered to by producers of National Statistics information and governs the way in which our work is undertaken. The Code is supported by a series of Protocols which expand the relevant principles and which are strictly followed.

NISRA continues to address the needs of a wide range of users, producing high quality statistics and research, ensuring the quality of those statistics and disseminating information to its users efficiently and effectively. NISRA will continue to ensure statistical outputs are fit for purpose and that users have a high degree of confidence in them.

NISRA is the principal source of official information on Northern Ireland's population and socio-economic conditions. The statistics produced by the Agency not only inform the policy process within Government, but also

academic research and contribute to debate in the wider community. The Agency incorporates the General Register Office (GRO) for Northern Ireland, which provides a civil registration service and produces summary statistics relating to life events.

Vision

NISRA's vision is to be recognised as an organisation:

- that is valued for innovation, integrity and independence and recognised for first class service provided to government and the public;
- whose expertise provides important and trusted information and advice that has a beneficial impact on people's lives; and
- that is known and respected within government and publicly for the comprehensive information that is collected to the highest professional standards and provides an understanding of social and economic conditions and changes in Northern Ireland.

Management Commentary

Aim, Principal Activities and Targets

Aim

The corporate aims of NISRA are:

- to provide a statistical and research service to support decision making by Northern Ireland Ministers and Departments and to inform elected representatives and the wider community through the dissemination of reliable official statistics; and
- to administer the marriage laws and to provide a system for the registration of births, marriages, civil partnerships, adoptions and deaths in Northern Ireland.

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the Agency are:

- to be the principal advisory body on statistics and social research for Northern Ireland Departments, the Northern Ireland Office and their respective Ministers;
- to provide and co-ordinate professional statistics and research services, and provide advice to Northern Ireland Departments, Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies;
- to collect, analyse and make available official statistics which describe Northern Ireland's society, economy, population and public service;
- to provide high quality demographic information to enable the number and the condition of the population to be monitored and changes over time to be identified;
- to support, facilitate and contribute to the development of economic and social policies in Northern Ireland;
- to ensure that statistical and research standards are adhered to and that best methodological practice is employed in official statistics and social research;
- to provide Northern Ireland statistics required for the United Kingdom, European Union and international statistical series; and

- to administer the marriage laws and provide an efficient and effective system for the registration of births, marriages, civil partnerships, adoptions and deaths in Northern Ireland.

Targets

NISRA has used the balanced scorecard approach to bring a broader perspective and balance to the work of the Agency and the way in which we deliver our strategic goals and provide a business focus for both the short and long-term which puts meaningful performance measurements in place. The Agency has four strategic objectives and five associated outcomes.

These are:

Strategic Objective 1: Finance

Manage resources economically and effectively and stabilise the level of income-generating customers.

NISRA will aim to develop its services informed by our users' perspectives. To this end we will gather information on the use of our services, how our services compare with others, and assess the demand for both current and new products/services.

We will continue to market our products and services and maintain our income-generating customer base.

Strategic Objective 2: Customers

Maintain our customer base and increase our level of customer satisfaction.

NISRA will improve accessibility to its services and products by enhancing and expanding electronic means of delivery to customers. We will strive to continually improve the level of services provided so that customer needs are met. The Agency will survey its customers so that it can respond to their changing needs, reviewing and updating Service Level Agreements as required.

Strategic Objective 3: Processes

Deliver a modernised registration service.

This Government is committed to delivering significant improvements to public services. The registration of births, marriages and deaths is a vital service that touches everyone during their lives. The system has its roots in the nineteenth century but the needs of society, families and individuals have altered in many ways since then.

Modernisation is required to reflect and support these changes. New proposals will provide greater choice, improved service delivery and innovation.

The New Marriage (NI) Order was introduced in January 2003. The Agency will monitor and evaluate the new process to ensure its effectiveness. A new integrated registration system is being developed to best address society's needs. It will provide improved service delivery, provide easier access to services and be more responsive.

Manage the production and dissemination of official statistics and social research on Northern Ireland in keeping with the National Statistics Code of Practice.

This objective underpins the purpose of NISRA. We aim to provide a statistics and research service to support decision making by Ministers and NI Departments, and to inform elected representatives and the wider community of social and economic conditions through dissemination of reliable official statistics.

In producing its statistics and research outputs NISRA will adhere to the National Statistics Code of Practice principles and supporting Protocols. Compliance will be monitored continuously. This will provide the quality framework and rules of practice to ensure provision of all NISRA statistics and research information is of a high standard, in which a high degree of confidence can be placed.

Strategic Objective 4: Learning and Growth

Develop staff, consistent with the principles of IIP and the DFP Competence Framework so that the Agency can deliver its business outputs.

NISRA will seek to ensure that it has a clear vision for the future and that all staff within the Agency are striving to achieve the organisation's goals.

NISRA will be properly structured with a highly skilled and flexible workforce, with priority being given to training and development of staff to ensure that they have the correct competences and skills.

Further, NISRA will treat all staff fairly, encourage development, and value and reward achievement, while striving to ensure that business outputs are achieved.

Operating Review

The associated Ministerial and Chief Executive targets are set out in a balanced scorecard framework. Performance against targets is summarised in the next section.

Performance Against Targets

The Agency had three key Ministerial targets for the year 2005/2006. All three targets were achieved. The results have been validated by independent audit.

Ministerial Targets

Target	Result
To have less than 2% of National Statistics outputs between 01.04.05 and 31.03.06 failing to comply with the National Statistics Code of Practice and Protocols.	Achieved. No breaches of National Statistics Code of Practice reported.
To have at least 96% of customers who respond to the Customer Satisfaction Survey rating the Agency's service and products as satisfactory or better.	Achieved. Customer Satisfaction Survey reported 99% satisfaction rating.
To put forward proposals for the modernisation of the Civil Registration Service by 31.03.06.	Achieved. Proposals put forward on 24th March.

NISRA's Balanced Scorecard

Financial Performance

Objective	Performance Measures	Targets	Outcome and Measures Used
Manage resources economically & effectively & stabilise income generating customers	Maintain expenditure within approved plans	To have no overspend and a maximum of 2% underspend	Achieved. The Agency's expenditure was measured against approved budgetary plans
	Deliver required efficiency saving	Deliver an efficiency saving of 2.5%	Achieved. The net administration budget allocation for 2004/2005 was uplifted by the GDP deflator and administration expenditure for 2005/2006 was measured against 97.5% of the uplifted 2004/2005 figure
	Stabilise income streams	Maintain % of income covered by SLAs	Achieved. The percentage SLA income in 2004-2005 was compared to the percentage SLA income in 2005-2006

External Impact (Customers)

Objective	Performance Measures	Targets	Outcome and Measures Used
Maintain customer base and increase the level of customer satisfaction	Manage customer expectations, improve customer relations and progressively improve customer's views	Have at least 96% of users, responding to the Customer Satisfaction Survey rating the services and products as satisfactory or better	Achieved. 99% of customers were satisfied with the services and products provided. Measured using results from Customer Satisfaction Survey.
	Meet customer needs	Increase the % of users, responding to the Customer Satisfaction Survey rating the services provided as better than the previous year.	No significant change*. However almost a third of customers rated the service as better than the previous year. Measured using Customer Satisfaction Survey.
	Develop new and existing products and services to meet customer needs	Increase the number of services being delivered electronically	Achieved. In addition to developing the electronic services available in 2004/05 ie NISRA website, National Statistics, NINIS, NICA, CSU, Demography, Equality and GRO services, a number of further electronic services were introduced in 2005/2006 including GRO's Integrated Registration and Certificate Modernisation System in April/May 2005. Measured through audit of branches.

* Target measured using survey method. Change recorded between 2004 and 2005 was not statistically significant.

Operational Effectiveness (Processes)

Objective	Performance Measures	Targets	Outcome and Measures Used
<p>Deliver a modernised registration service.</p> <p>Manage and improve the production and dissemination of official statistics and social research on Northern Ireland in keeping with the National Statistics Code of Practice.</p> <p>Maintain a sound system of corporate governance</p>	<p>Introduce appropriate IT solutions to improve processes and products</p>	<p>Increase the number of data collection systems that are (i) collected wholly by electronic means or (ii) have an option for electronic data collection</p>	<p>Achieved.</p> <p>Examples of new electronic data collection systems include the e-survey facility for the Quarterly Employment Survey and Annual Business Inquiry and the electronic registration service introduced by GRO. Measured through audit of branches.</p>
		<p>Increase the number of NISRA publications that are available in electronic form (web, CD etc)</p>	<p>Achieved. All publications produced by NISRA in 2005/2006 were made available electronically.</p>
		<p>Increase the number/ proportion of NISRA (i) primary data sources that are available electronically for secondary analysis (ii) aggregate data sources that are available electronically</p>	<p>Achieved. During 2005/2006 a number of new datasets became available for secondary analysis, including Ambulance Response Times data, Acute and Elderly Programmes datasets, Dental, Pharmacy and Optician Services data, CHS 2004/05 and EFS 2003/04. Measured through audit of branches.</p>
		<p>Improve the robustness of NISRA's information systems and production processes</p>	<p>Bring forward finalised proposals for the modernisation of the Civil Registration Service</p>
		<p>Launch a New NISRA Internet site</p>	<p>Achieved. New site was launched in November 2005</p>

Operational Effectiveness (Processes) *(continued)*

Objective	Performance Measures	Targets	Outcome and Measures Used
	Maintain compliance with National Statistics Code of Practice and other relevant legislation	Adhere to the principles of the National Statistics Code of Practice and the additional underlying Protocols	Achieved. No breaches of the Code and Protocols recorded by the Office for National Statistics (ONS)
	Maintain audit compliance	Secure a clear audit report on Agency Risk Management	Achieved. NISRA received a clear audit report for 2005/06
		Safeguard resources against fraud by ensuring measures are in place	Achieved. Internal controls are in place to minimise the risk of fraud occurring. Senior managers have signed stewardship statements identifying any weaknesses and confirming that the controls are in place and are operational.

Learning and Growth

Objective	Performance Measures	Targets	Outcome and Measures Used	
Develop staff, consistent with the principles of IIP and the DFP Competence Framework, so that the Agency can deliver its business outputs	Attract and retain the right number of people with the appropriate skills	Increase proportion of successful applicants offered posts who take up posts	Not achieved. Based on HR records.	
		Reduce 'leaver' rate in each grade (ignoring age retirements etc)	Not achieved. While the overall leaver rate reduced, some grades recorded no change and one recorded a small increase. Based on HR records.	
		Increase proportion of staff who state that NISRA is a good organisation to work for	No significant change*. Based on staff survey	
	Create an environment where people want to work	Increase proportion of staff that:	have completed PDPs	No significant change*. Based on staff survey
			state their PDP was delivered	No significant change*. Based on staff survey
			felt that their PDP was appropriate to their needs	No significant change*. Based on staff survey
			state that they felt motivated in their job	Not achieved - no change recorded. Based on staff survey
			felt that they received appropriate recognition for the work that they do	No significant change*. Based on staff survey
			are 'satisfied' in their current job	Not achieved - satisfaction levels declined. Based on staff survey
			would recommend NISRA as a good place to work	No significant change*. Based on staff survey

* Target measured using survey method. Change recorded between 2004 and 2005 was not statistically significant.

Research and Development / Future Developments

Details of Research publications produced by NISRA can be found in this Annual Report on pages 39 to 40.

Details of future developments are included in NISRA's Corporate Plan 2006-2009 and Business Plan 2006-2007.

Financial Review

Key Corporate Financial Targets

The Agency's key corporate financial target was to operate within the running costs cash allocation and to achieve at least 2.5% efficiency saving on the 2004/2005 allocation (2005: 2% on the 2003/2004 allocation).

This target was achieved through economic and effective use of resources. However, it is not possible to measure the achievement of these targets from the accounts as the accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and these targets were set on a cash basis.

The accounts at the end of this report have been prepared in accordance with a direction given by the Department of Finance and Personnel in accordance with Section 11(2) of the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001.

The net cost of operations for the year was £6,079k.

Fixed Assets

Details in the movement of fixed assets are set out in note 7 to the Accounts.

The Agency does not believe that there is any material difference between the market and book value of its fixed assets, as at 31 March 2006.

Important Events Occurring After the Year End

There have been no significant events since the year-end that would affect the Accounts.

Charitable Donations

The Agency aims to encourage and support the voluntary work of staff that will bring benefit to the community. During 2005/2006, staff participated in 10 projects details of which are set out on page 31.

The cost of the time granted off amounted to approximately £500.

Payments to Suppliers

The Agency is committed to the prompt payment of bills for goods and services received in accordance with the Better Payment Practice Code and British Standard BS7890 - Achieving Good Payment Performance in Commercial Transactions. Unless otherwise stated in the contract, payment is due within 30 days of receipt of the goods or performance of the services, or presentation of a valid invoice or similar demand, whichever is later.

The prompt payment performance for year was 95%.

During this period NISRA did not make any interest payments under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest Act 1988).

Disabled Persons

The Agency follows the NI Civil Service Code of Practice on the Employment of Disabled People. The Agency aims to ensure that disablement is not a bar to recruitment or advancement.

Health and Safety

The Agency is committed to adhering to all existing legislation on health and safety at work to ensure that staff and customers enjoy the benefits of a safe environment.

Equality of Opportunity

The Agency follows the NI Civil Service policy that all eligible persons shall have equal opportunity for employment and advancement on the basis of ability, qualifications and aptitude for the work.

Management Interests

All members of the Senior Management Group have signed undertakings requiring them to disclose significant interests or anything that may conflict with their management responsibilities.

Related Party Transactions

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency is an executive agency of the Department of Finance and Personnel.

The Department of Finance and Personnel is regarded as a related party. During the year, the Agency has had a number of material transactions with the Department, and with Government Purchasing Agency, another executive agency for which the Department is regarded as the parent Department.

In addition, NISRA had a number of material transactions with other Government Departments and other central Government bodies. Most of these have been with the Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment, Department of Environment, Department of Education, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and its executive agencies. For further details please see note 16 to the accounts.

During the year, none of the board members, members of the key management staff or other related parties have undertaken any material transactions with the Agency.

Employee Involvement

The Agency recognises the benefit of keeping employees informed of the progress of the business and of involving them in the Agency's performance. During the period employees were regularly provided with information regarding the financial and economic factors affecting the performance of NISRA and on other matters of concern to them, as employees, through meetings, notices and the Agency Brief.

Auditors

The financial statements are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General for Northern Ireland (C&AG) in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001. He is head of the Northern Ireland Audit Office and he and his staff are wholly independent of the Agency and reports his findings to Parliament.

The audit of the financial statements for 2005-06 resulted in a notional audit fee of £6,000 and is included in the administration costs in the operating cost statement.

So far as the Accounting Officer is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Agency's auditors are unaware.

The Accounting Officer has taken all the steps he ought to have taken to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the entity's auditors are aware of that information.

Remuneration Report

Remuneration Policy

The remuneration of senior civil servants is set by the Prime Minister following independent advice from the Review Body on Senior Salaries.

The Review Body also advises the Prime Minister from time to time on the pay and pensions of Members of Parliament and their allowances; on Peers' allowances; and on the pay, pensions and allowances of Ministers and others whose pay is determined by the Ministerial and Other Salaries Act 1975.

In reaching its recommendations, the Review Body has regard to the following considerations:

- the need to recruit, retain and motivate suitably able and qualified people to exercise their different responsibilities;
- regional/local variations in labour markets and their effects on the recruitment and retention of staff;
- Government policies for improving the public services including the requirement on departments to meet the output targets for the delivery of departmental services;
- the funds available to departments as set out in the Government's departmental expenditure limits; and
- the Government's inflation target.

The Review Body takes account of the evidence it receives about wider economic considerations and the affordability of its recommendations.

The remuneration of all senior civil servants is entirely performance based. Permanent Secretaries pay awards are determined by the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Permanent Secretary Remuneration Committee.

Further information about the work of the Review Body can be found at www.ome.uk.com.

Service Contracts

Civil service appointments are made in accordance with the Civil Service Commissioners for Northern Ireland's Recruitment Code, which requires appointment to be on merit on the basis of fair and open competition but also includes the circumstances when appointments may otherwise be made.

Unless otherwise stated below, the officials covered by this report hold appointments, which are open-ended until they reach the normal retiring age of 60. Policy relating to notice periods and termination payments is contained in the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Staff Handbook.

Further information about the work of the Civil Service Commissioners can be found at www.nicscommissioners.org.

Salary and pension entitlements

The following sections provide details of the remuneration and pension interests of senior officials of the Agency.

Senior Civil Servants

Officials	2005-06		2004-05	
	Salary £'000	Benefits in kind (to nearest £100)	Salary £'000	Benefits in kind (to nearest £100)
Dr TN Caven (Registrar General & Chief Executive)	80-85	-	75-80	-
Dr T Power (Director of Information & Analysis Unit)	35-40	-	N/A	N/A
Mr R Beatty (Head of Census & Demography Methodology)	45-50	-	40-45	-
Dr S Donnelly (Head of Equality Unit Research Branch)	50-55	-	50-55	-
Dr J Mallon (Head of Human Resources Consultancy Services)	55-60	-	N/A	-
Dr K Sweeney (Head of Central Survey Unit)	55-60	-	N/A	-
Dr J Gillan (Head of Statistics Research Branch)	45-50	-	N/A	-

Salary

'Salary' includes gross salary; performance pay or bonuses, any allowance, such as London Weighting Allowances, to the extent that it is subject to UK taxation. This report is based on payments made by the Department and thus recorded in these accounts.

Benefits in Kind

The monetary value of benefits in kind covers any benefits provided by the employer and treated by the Inland Revenue as a taxable emolument.

Pensions

Senior Civil Servants

Officials	Accrued pension at age 60 as at 31/3/06 and related lump sum £'000	Real increase in pension and related lump sum at age 60 £'000	CETV at 31/3/06 £'000	CETV at 31/3/05 £'000	Real increase in CETV £'000	Employer contribution to partnership pension account Nearest £100
Dr TN Caven (Registrar General & Chief Executive)	27.5-30 plus lump sum of 87.5-90	0-2.5 plus lump sum of 0-2.5	523	493	9	-
Dr T Power (Director of Information & Analysis Unit)	7.5-10 plus lump sum of 27.5-30	0-2.5 plus lump sum of 2.5-5	111	92	13	-
Mr R Beatty (Head of Census & Demography Methodology)	12.5-15 premium member	0-2.5 premium member	150	137	5	-
Dr S Donnelly (Head of Equality Unit Research Branch)	12.5-15.5 plus lump sum of 40-42.5	0-2.5 plus lump sum of 0-2.5	199	185	5	-
Dr J Mallon (Head of Human Resources Consultancy Services)	15-17.5 plus lump sum of 45-47.5	0-2.5 plus lump sum of 0-2.5	250	228	11	-
Dr K Sweeney (Head of Central Survey Unit)	15-17.5 plus lump sum of 50-52.5	0-2.5 plus lump sum of 0-2.5	281	256	11	-
Dr J Gillan (Head of Statistics Research Branch)	12.5-15 plus lump sum of 35-37.5	0-2.5 plus lump sum of 0-2.5	197	180	8	-

Pension benefits are provided through the Civil Service pension arrangements. From 1 October 2002, civil servants may be in one of three statutory based 'final salary' defined benefit schemes (classic, premium, and classic plus). The schemes are unfunded with the cost of benefits met by monies voted by Parliament each year. Pensions payable under classic, premium, and classic plus are increased annually in line with changes in the Retail Prices Index. New entrants after 1 October 2002 may choose between membership of premium or joining a good quality 'money purchase' stakeholder arrangement with a significant employer contribution (partnership pension account).

Employee contributions are set at the rate of 1.5% of pensionable earnings for classic and 3.5% for premium and classic plus. Benefits in classic accrue at the rate of 1/80th of pensionable salary for each year of service. In addition, a lump sum equivalent to three years' pension is payable on retirement. For premium, benefits accrue at the rate of 1/60th of final pensionable earnings for each year of service. Unlike classic, there is no automatic lump sum (but members may give up (commute) some of their pension to provide a lump sum). Classic plus is essentially a variation of premium, but with benefits in respect of service before 1 October 2002 calculated broadly in the same way as in classic.

The partnership pension account is a stakeholder pension arrangement. The employer makes a basic contribution of between 3% and 12.5% (depending on the age of the member) into a stakeholder pension product chosen by the employee from a selection of approved products. The employee does not have to contribute but where they do make contributions, the employer will match these up to a limit of 3% of pensionable salary (in addition to the employer's basic contribution). Employers also contribute a further 0.8% of pensionable salary to cover the cost of centrally-provided risk benefit cover (death in service and ill health retirement).

Further details about the Civil Service pension arrangements can be found at the website

www.civilservicepensions-ni.gov.uk .

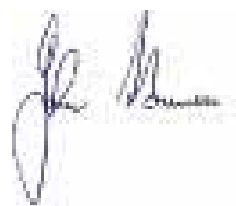
Cash Equivalent Transfer Values

A Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV) is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. A CETV is a payment made by a pension scheme or

arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the benefits accrued in their former scheme. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies. The CETV figures, and from 2003-04 the other pension details, include the value of any pension benefit in another scheme or arrangement which the individual has transferred to the Civil Service pension arrangements and for which the CS Vote has received a transfer payment commensurate with the additional pension liabilities being assumed. They also include any additional pension benefit accrued to the member as a result of their purchasing additional years of pension service in the scheme at their own cost. CETVs are calculated within the guidelines and framework prescribed by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries.

Real Increase in CETV

This reflects the increase in CETV effectively funded by the employer. It takes account of the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.



John Hunter

Accounting Officer

22 June 2006

Progress in Key Business Areas

National Statistics

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is responsible for collecting, compiling, processing, analysing, interpreting, and disseminating a wide range of statistics. Some of our statistics are designated as 'National Statistics' which means that they are produced in accordance with the arrangements set out in the Framework for National Statistics and in line with the principles set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice and its 12 supporting Protocols.

As well as complying with the Code of Practice and its supporting Protocols, all of our National Statistics are also produced and published in accordance with a number of statements and policies (on Data Management, Publication, Release Practices, Revisions, Errors, Confidentiality and Access, Customer Service and Complaints), each of which forms an integral part of NISRA's National Statistics Compliance Statement.

This section reports on the progress against the planned National Statistics Work Programme, which was set out in the preceding NISRA Business Plan, by the 12 National Statistics themes.

Publication of the material in this report, when included in the [UK] National Statistics Annual Report, also meets one of the key responsibilities assigned to the National Statistician in the Framework for National Statistics, namely : 'To prepare an annual report on the performance of National Statistics to the Chancellor, as Minister for National Statistics.'

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing

This theme brings together information and statistics about the agriculture, fishing and forestry sectors in Northern Ireland. In 2005/2006 DARD and NISRA staff:

- Collected, collated, analysed and published statistical data on agriculture and related industries in Northern Ireland as required to meet the needs of DARD, other Northern Ireland Departments, DEFRA and the EU;
- Published information on food consumption and expenditure in Northern Ireland as collected in the Expenditure and Food Survey, in October 2005;

- Completed and finalised the EU Farm Structure Survey during the course of the year;
- Refined the use of scanning technology for dealing with large volumes of statistical forms;
- Increased by 80% the number of farmers completing statistical returns online;
- Continued to participate in the EU led development of a database of statistical indicators for rural areas; and
- Initiated a validation process for historical agri-environmental data held by the Department.

Commerce, Energy and Industry

This theme covers the full range of micro-economic data (ie data at detailed sectoral or industrial level). During 2005/2006 DETI staff:

- Extended the Northern Ireland 2003 sample of the International Trade in Services Survey to ensure coverage of the High Export Potential Group and reported the findings in December 2005. The Construction sample was also extended for the 2005 survey year;
- Undertook fieldwork for the Northern Ireland component of the UK Community Innovation Survey 2005 and published the result in May 2006; and
- Participated in consultation with ONS regarding business survey integration. DETI will continue to consider how best to integrate NI business surveys in light of ONS developments.
- A multi-source report on the activities of small and medium sized enterprises in Northern Ireland will be completed early summer 2006.

Crime and Justice

Crime and justice statistics cover both the impact of crime on the public and the working of the criminal and civil justice systems. In 2005/2006 the NIO staff:

- Further developed the Northern Ireland Crime Survey by introducing continuous fieldwork on the survey, increasing the sample size, and introducing a new series of questions to measure confidence in the Criminal Justice System. Questions to assess the reasons for the level of confidence were also piloted;

- Published the 2004 Commentary on Northern Ireland Crime Statistics in August 2005;
- Published a bulletin on the Northern Ireland prison projections in September 2005;
- Published a bulletin on the Northern Ireland prison population in June 2005; and
- Considered the applicability of extending to Northern Ireland the methodology employed by the Scottish Prison Service as part of the internal review of prison projections in Northern Ireland.
- Publication of the Fifth Digest of information on the Northern Ireland Criminal Justice System was delayed until June 2006.
- Completed the first stage of the internal research into both Productivity and Inactivity as part of the DETI internal Economic Research Agenda commitments;
- Completed the experimental Index of Services and published results in May 2005. Work on the Service Sector Productivity Index is ongoing; and
- Progressed work on establishing e-survey capability for the Index of Services, which is currently on going.
- Participated in an ONS working group to develop a Business Register Employment Survey as part of the first steps to implement Allsopp Review recommendations. This will be taken forward subsequently as appropriate for Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland Court Service staff:

- Continued to develop The ICOS system. The civil and family management information flat files from ICOS were developed, tested and released to the statistics branch during 2005/2006. The testing of ICOS was successful, there have been no faults reported and customers needs have been met;
- Commenced the development and testing of the criminal management information flat files in January 2005; and
- Published Judicial Statistics in July 2005.

PSNI staff:

- Published annual recorded crime statistics for 2004/2005; and
- Published the annual security statistics for 2004/2005.

CSU staff:

- Carried out a Northern Ireland Crime Survey.

Economy

The economy theme covers statistics about economic accounts, government expenditure and revenues, prices and measures of inflation, short-term economic indicators and regional macro-economic statistics. During 2005/2006 DETI staff:

- Published the first Northern Ireland Economic Bulletin in June 2005;

RREPB staff:

- Contributed to quality assuring UK estimates of Gross Disposable Household Income for the regions, sub-regions and local areas of the United Kingdom, which were published in April 2005; and
- Input to the ONS estimation of Gross Value Added (GVA) for the regions and sub-regions of the UK, including Northern Ireland, which were published in December 2005.

Education and Training

The Education and Training Theme covers statistics about learners, learning progression, qualifications and skills, and the workforce and providers that deliver learning. During 2005/2006 DE staff:

- Prepared and started to implement an Action Plan in response to the National Statistics Quality Review of school statistics in Northern Ireland;
- Published statistical press releases on the School Census, School Leavers' Survey, Pupil: Teacher Ratios, and Participation in Full-Time Education by 16 and 17 Year Olds; and
- Undertook the 2005/2006 School Census, 2004/2005 Summary of Examination Results, the 2004/2005 School Leavers' Survey, and compilation of the 2005/2006 Teachers' database.

DEL staff:

- Published research on graduates moving on in October 2005. This is follow up research into the destination of students gaining Higher Education qualifications and entering the labour market. The research tracks employment at various intervals post qualification;
- Progressed research on the Student Income and Expenditure Survey. This research looks at students and how they currently resource their student years;
- Published statistical bulletins on students enrolling, gaining qualifications and the first destinations of those gaining first degrees from Higher Education Institutes;
- Published in October 2005 an update of the earlier UCAS study on “Where NI domiciled students choose to study” by analysing the UCAS applications data; and
- Progressed work on a Review of Widening Social Access data currently available for monitoring access by under represented groups to Higher and Further Education.

Health and Care

The Health and Care theme brings together statistics about health, health services and social care. DHSSPS staff in 2005/2006:

- Reviewed and amended aggregate Hospital Data Returns. Returns continue to be developed to monitor new policy developments;
- Progressed the development of the new Korner Aggregate Returns (KARS) Monitoring System that is ongoing;
- Provided input to the Appleby Independent Health Review;
- Provided input into the Performance Assessment and Reporting Framework; Baseline data was provided for selected indicators and further technical advice was provided relating to indicator definitions and robustness. Community Information Branch (CIB) provided advice on the development of indicators relating to adult's and children's personal social services;
- Developed new system to collect information from HSS Trusts electronically. This system is

currently being piloted; CIB automated the processing of all Community returns made in respect of 2004/05;

- Provided continued support to the SSI inspection programme; CIB provided professional statistical services to several SSI inspections during the year, including Child Protection, Physical Disability & Sensory Impairment, and Social Service to Carers;
- Developed new children's and adult social services returns; CIB took responsibility for the collection, validation and processing of community based returns at the beginning of 2005/06 and also developed new returns relating to carers' assessments and services;
- CIB contributed to the development of several research projects including children and their pathways in secure care and the criminal justice system; tracking how children and young people who display inappropriate behaviours are processed through the child protection system; pathways and outcomes for children in care;
- CIB consulted with policy colleagues, Trusts and Boards throughout the year in relation to reviewing information on children services; and
- CIB continued to provide professional advice to the development of a strategy on domestic violence.

CSU staff:

- Carried out the 2005 NI Health and Social Wellbeing Survey; and
- Commenced fieldwork on the NI survey of Activity Limitation and Disability.

Labour Market

The Labour Market theme includes statistics about working lives, including characteristics of people who have a job and those who do not, occupations and industries in which people work, pay and earnings from employment. In 2005/2006 DETI staff:

- Released all labour market publications in line with the pre-announced timetable. Publications produced include the key monthly Labour Force Survey results, Claimant Count and Redundancy Statistics, the Quarterly Employee Jobs Survey,

quarterly and 5 special topic Labour Force Survey results, and the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings results;

- Consulted Labour Force Survey (LFS) users in order to identify how Quarterly and Special Topic LFS publications could be improved to meet their needs. The findings of the exercise have been incorporated into the publication schedule for 2006/07;
- Commenced fieldwork for the biennial Census of Employment in September 2005 and achieved the target of 92% of forms returned by March 2006;
- Considered the Quality Review of Employment and Jobs Statistics recommendations published by ONS in January 2006. No immediate changes were necessary at NI level but the situation will be kept under review as ONS develop the new Business Register Employment Survey (BRES);
- Undertook work to source Civil Service employment statistics from the Northern Ireland Human Resource Management System;
- Extended the existing Quarterly Employment e-survey facility, to make it available through the Government Gateway; and
- Put in place a new data processing system for the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

CSU staff:

- Carried out a Labour Force Survey.

Natural and Built Environment

This theme covers the natural environment, housing, construction, land use and planning. In 2005/2006, DRD staff:

- Developed a data repository for environment statistics which is due to be published in 2006/2007;
- Provided support for the development of the waste management monitoring indicators collected through the 'data flow' system;
- Considered the development of an approach to future surveying of attitudes to the environment. While a specific survey was not implemented, questions on public attitudes to environmental issues were included in the 2005/2006 Continuous Household Survey;

- Continued to develop the house completion database system through continuous liaison with District Building Control Offices. Proposals relating to completion inspections were accepted. However, building control have not yet accepted proposals to include geo-referencing; and
- Published household projections for Northern Ireland in January 2005. These are due for update every two years, commencing 2006/2007.

CSU staff :

- Carried out the Northern Ireland Quarterly Construction Enquiry.

Population and Migration

The Population and Migration theme brings together statistics on population estimates and projections and statistics on births, deaths, marriages and divorce. In 2005/2006 DMB staff:

- Published the 2004 population estimates by single year of age and sex for Northern Ireland, Local Government Districts and Parliamentary Constituencies;
- Published the First Names Bulletin of 100 most popular boy's and girl's names registered in 2004;
- Published sub-Northern Ireland population projections;
- Published the Annual Report of the Registrar General, 2004;
- Provided input to the future statistics requirements of the civil registration system arising out of the consultation exercise regarding the Review of Civil Registration;
- In conjunction with the Office for National Statistics, progressed work on developing a methodology to produce more timely population estimates;
- Reviewed migration statistics in the light of the National Statistics Quality Review on International Migration and the results of the 2001 Census of Population;
- Developed demographic statistics based methods for projecting the future number of households in Northern Ireland;

- Considered the implications for Northern Ireland of the Population Studies Review being conducted by ONS. This work remains on going; and
- Progressed work on the development of a longitudinal study.

Census Office staff:

- Analysed and reported the responses to the initial 2011 Census consultation exercise held in the first half of 2005 which sought users views on the 2011 Census question content, the general provision of demographic statistics and the population base & statistical framework for the 2011 Census. This work was followed up by a series of three information days held in Limavady, Belfast and Enniskillen in March 2006;
- Contributed to the development and implementation of a UK wide procurement strategy for the 2011 Census which will result in the first major contract being awarded in Autumn 2006;
- Contributed to the work of the UK Census Questionnaire Design working group on the harmonisation of question topics and content in order to ensure that the interests of Northern Ireland are represented;
- Developed the Northern Ireland 2007 Census Test and Evaluation plan, incorporating proposals to test alternative enumeration and data collection methodologies; and
- Prepared for the test and associated quality assessment of the Northern Ireland POINTER address system.
- Work was also undertaken to release the outstanding outputs from the 2001 Census (eg 2001 Census Key Statistics for Settlements and the 2001 Grid Square Produce) and prepare a combined General/Quality report on the 2001 Census in Northern Ireland.

Social and Welfare

The Social and Welfare theme brings together information and statistics about the domestic, financial and social living arrangements of individuals and families. In 2005/2006 DSD staff:

- Identified deprived areas using data from the Family Resources Survey;

- Produced a series of reports based on the 2003/2004 FRS data;
- Provided a professional statistics, research and consultancy service to the Welfare Reform Programme and the wider Social Security Agency; This included the development of a new Working Age Analytical Publication and the continued production of a bulletin for the Payment Modernisation Project. DSD staff also provided a statistical and consultancy service to the Anti-Poverty Unit of the SSA during their work on Benefit Take-Up;
- Commenced work on creating a Social Welfare Longitudinal Database that will hold information on individuals benefit receipt since February 2002. This database will assist other sections in the branch to meet increasing demand for benefit/employment flow analysis and client group analysis; and
- Provided a comprehensive range of statistics publications on individual benefits and the three major social security client groups. During 2005/06 DSD staff produced 39 National Statistics publications, all of which are available in electronic format. These publications continue to inform DSD, the public and other government departments with information relating to Social Security Benefits.

CSU staff:

- Carried out the Expenditure and Food Survey; and
- Carried out the NI wave of the European Survey of Income and Living Conditions.

Transport, Travel and Tourism

Transport, travel and tourism statistics cover a range of topics from traffic counts and surveys of road freight operators to statistics about the relative safety of different transport modes. In 2005/2006 DRD staff:

- Published the Annual Transport Statistics and 4 quarterly bulletins;
- Continued to liaise with DFT on the development of EC Rail Statistics;
- Monitored progress towards targets in the NI Road Safety Strategy and the Regional Transportation Strategy;

- Progressed the development of small area data on access to public transport for use in deprivation analysis. A multi-agency working group dealing with this continued to meet throughout 2005/2006, with the development of data on service provision achieved and estimates of access to cars progressed. Data on public transport provision has been difficult to obtain due to resource limitations at Translink.
- Participated in the NI Geographic Information Strategy Transport sub group;
- Held discussions with the Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency Northern Ireland with a view to developing driver and vehicle statistics. A formal working group will be established in 2006/2007; and
- Investigated the Administrative Integrated Ticketing Information System for public transport data.

PSNI staff:

- Published the annual Injury Road Traffic Collision Statistics for 2004/2005; and
- Completed the review of the T1 form used to collect injury road traffic collision statistics. The implementation of the review has been delayed due to forthcoming IT changes to data capture processes.

DETI staff:

- Contributed to a review of Northern Ireland Tourism Statistics that was commissioned by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board working with DETI statisticians. A draft report was completed.

Other National Statistics

This theme covers a wide range of topics including compendia publications. The Agency has responsibility for producing a number of compendia publications that summarise social and economic statistics on Northern Ireland. In 2005/2006 RREP staff:

- Published the Northern Ireland Annual Abstract of Statistics 2005 in hard copy and internet format in October 2005; and
- Co-ordinated NI input to Office for National Statistics produced compendia publications, including Social Trends and a number of the reports in the "Focus On" series.

Cross-cutting Statistics

The Agency's Central Survey Unit (CSU) provides a high quality research service to NI Government and is responsible for carrying out many of the National Statistics surveys in Northern Ireland. During 2005/2006 the following National Statistics surveys were conducted/reported on:

- The Family Resources Survey;
- The Expenditure and Food Survey;
- The Continuous Household Survey; and
- The European Survey of Income and Living Conditions.

CSU and RREP staff:

- Developed, in consultation with the cross-cutting PSI Group on People with Disabilities, a questionnaire for a survey of people in Northern Ireland with disabilities. The survey was subject to two pilot phases and a full dress rehearsal during 2005. Fieldwork on the actual survey began in February 2006.

Infrastructure

DETI is responsible for the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR). During 2005/2006 DETI staff:

- revised the annual report on the Northern Ireland element of the Inter Departmental Business Register to better meet users' information needs.

Non National Statistics Work Achievements

Some of the 2005/2006 work achievements that do not fall under the banner of National Statistics are outlined below.

Commerce, Energy and Industry

During 2005/2006 DETI staff:

- Undertook the 2005 Business Insurance Survey using a new sample design, which will enable better integration with Annual Business Inquiry results.

Crime and Justice

During 2005/2006 Northern Ireland Court Service Staff:

- Developed and implemented an enhanced validation system in the High Court and County Court; and
- Developed, carried out and analysed a customer satisfaction survey for the Northern Ireland Court Service.

NISRA staff in the Policing Board:

- Published research into the attitudes towards and experiences of policing by members of Northern Ireland's Black and Minority Ethnic and Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual communities. This research was jointly commissioned with the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (OPONI);
- Published results from the April 2005 and September 2005 Omnibus Surveys to measure public confidence in the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) and District Policing Partnerships (DPPs);
- Collated Omnibus and PSNI statistics to independently monitor PSNI performance against agreed 2005/06 Policing Plan targets;
- Provided statistical and research support to District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) to enable them to monitor local policing performance and to carry out their public consultation exercises;
- Conducted survey work and collected statistical

information to assist the NIPB in monitoring the effectiveness of DPPs;

- Conducted internal and external surveys as required and providing professional analysis, advice and support on other surveys conducted by or within the NIPB; and
- Provided routine and ad-hoc statistical information to the NIPB, its 6 sub-committees and senior management.

Education and Training

During 2005/2006 CSU staff:

- Carried out a Student Income and Expenditure Survey; and
- Carried out a Skills Monitoring Survey.

Health and Care

During 2005/2006 CSU staff:

- Carried out a survey of Adult Drinking Patterns;
- Carried out a Primary School Drug and Alcohol Survey; and
- Carried out a Child Wellbeing Survey.

During 2005/2006 Drug & Alcohol Information & Research Unit (DAIRU) staff:

- Provided statistical and research expertise on the Development Team for the 'New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs 2006 - 2011' and provided a range of information and analysis in support of that work; and
- Successfully developed and implemented a database that monitors the operation of the Northern Ireland Substitute Prescribing Scheme.

Natural and Built Environment

During 2005/2006 VLA staff:

- Played a central role in successful completion of the 6th Domestic Valuation List, the first ever based on Capital Values of domestic property.

Social and Welfare

During 2005/2006 DCAL staff:

- Published the first ever DCAL Research & Statistical Bulletin 1/2006 “statisDCAL - Libraries Bulletin” in January 2006 based on findings from the 2003/2004 Continuous Household Survey;
 - Continued to monitor DCAL’s PSA Target 1 (“Through to 2008, maintain or exceed the level of participation across culture, arts and leisure activities against the 2002 baseline of 90%”) using an annual omnibus survey;
 - Provided the Northern Ireland Events Company with participation and satisfaction statistics derived from an annual survey;
 - Worked with DCAL colleagues to advise on the construction of a libraries funding formula;
 - Produced statistics from the Creative Youth Partnership database that contributed to evaluation reports;
 - Designed and constructed a database to provide analysis of Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland’s annual staff opinion survey;
 - Helped with the design and analysis of the core DCAL staff survey eliciting staff opinions on topics such as management, communication and training; and
 - Assisted with a Survey of Disabled Anglers including the design of a postal questionnaire covering topics such as frequency and location of angling, availability of information, facilities and nature of disability.
- Produced the Survey of Hotel Accommodation Annual Report 2004;
 - Produced the Survey of Self-catering Accommodation Annual Report 2004;
 - Produced the Survey of Visitor Attractions Annual Report 2004; and
 - Produced the Regional / Local Authority Tourism Estimates 2004.

DETI staff:

- Developed a first steps Tourism Satellite account for Northern Ireland in association with the Northern Ireland Tourism Board and completed a draft report; and
- Contributed to a review of Northern Ireland Tourism Statistics that was commissioned by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and completed a draft report.

Cross cutting

During 2005/2006 CSU staff:

- carried out the NI Household Panel Survey; and
- carried out the NI Omnibus survey.

Other

During 2005/2006 GRO staff:

- Set up the Gender Recognition Register in GRO so that from 1 April 2005 persons who had received a Gender Recognition Certificate, to prove they had changed gender, could have their birth re-registered in the new gender;
- Drafted the Civil Partnership Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 which were made on 4 November 2005. This enabled same sex couples to form civil partnerships and provide legal recognition of their relationship. GRO then set up a new computer system, drafted instructions and delivered training to 90 District Registration staff so that Civil Partnership Registration could start from 5 December 2005. The system was successfully implemented; and
- Drafted the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Civil Partnership (Fees) Order (Northern Ireland) 2005

Transport, Travel and Tourism

During 2005/2006 CSU staff:

- Carried out the NI Travel survey.

Northern Ireland Tourist Board staff:

- Published Monthly Guesthouse and Bed & Breakfast Occupancy Report;
- Produced the Monthly Hotel Occupancy Report;
- Produced the Survey of Guesthouse and Bed & Breakfast Accommodation Annual Report 2004;

which was made on 4 November 2005. This increased the fees payable for registration services including birth/death certificates and marriage preliminaries as well as introducing new fees for civil partnership preliminaries and registration.

RREPB staff:

- Continued to provide a dedicated service to the Managing Authorities of the EU Programmes in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. Projects of particular note in this period included the production of Mid-Term Evaluation Updates, as required by the European Commission, for the Building Sustainable Prosperity and Urban II Programmes as well as for the Northern Ireland Community Support Framework;
- Played a key role in the management of the Mid-Term Evaluation Updates of the Peace II Programme, and the Interreg IIIA and Leader+ Community Initiatives, which were conducted by external consultants; and
- Provided advice to senior officials in DFP on the methodologies proposed for allocating the EU's budget for the 2007-2013 Programmes amongst the EU countries and within the UK.

Customers

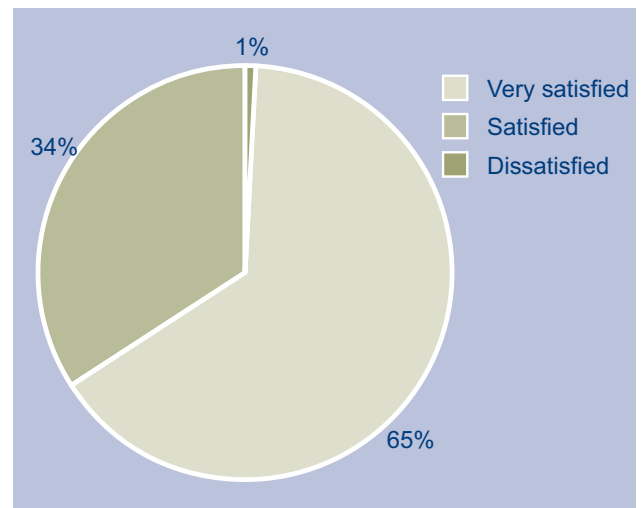
NISRA is committed to improving its service to customers, including other Northern Ireland Departments, and this is monitored through a series of Service Level Agreements (SLAs)/Concordats.

Customer Satisfaction

NISRA Customer Satisfaction Survey questionnaires were administered to key customers to ascertain whether Agency staff had delivered the service and products required to a satisfactory standard. The results of the survey showed that 99% of customers were satisfied with the service and products provided, with 65% reporting they were 'very satisfied'.

Customers were also asked how the service that they had received this year compared to that of the previous year. Just over 31% reported an improved service from the previous year.

Figure 2: NISRA 2005/2006 Customer Satisfaction Survey Results



Modernisation of the Registration Service

Civil Registration Review

Following analysis of an earlier public consultation exercise, GRO put forward proposals for the modernisation of birth and death registration. These proposals, that addressed a wide range of issues aimed at bringing the Registration Service into the 21st century, were approved by the Minister in March 2006. Prior to drafting legislation a detailed consultation was conducted. A further consultation on the final proposals has now commenced.

Digitisation of Registration Records

As part of the ongoing modernisation programme GRO is currently exploring opportunities to enhance the service, improve access provided to the public and government users and improve efficiency by digitising some 8 million paper-based registration records dating back to 1845. As well as using information technology to make improvements in meeting the needs of the public and contributing to government targets for electronic delivery, this project will protect important historic records.

Gender Recognition Registration

The Gender Recognition Act 2004 was passed on 1 July 2004 and established a Gender Recognition Panel that will issue Gender Recognition Certificates to those who have satisfactorily proved that they have been living in their new gender.

The Gender Recognition Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 that came into operation from 1 April 2005 will allow the Registrar General, on receipt of a Gender Recognition Certificate, to re-register a birth, showing the new gender, in the Gender Recognition Register.

During the period 1 April 2005 - 31 March 2006 there were 18 births re-registered in this way.

Civil Partnerships

The Civil Partnership Act 2004 was passed on 18 November 2004 to enable same-sex couples to form civil partnerships and provide legal recognition of the relationship between same-sex couples. The rights and responsibilities flowing from a civil partnership are similar to those for marriage.

The Civil Partnership Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 that came into operation from 5 December 2005 provided for the preliminaries to civil partnerships and for the events to be registered by the District Registrars.

During the period from 19 December 2005, when the first registration was possible, to the 31 March 2006 there were 43 Civil Partnership Registrations.

Fees

Each year GRO reviews the statutory fees charged for registration services against costs. As a result the fees had to be increased therefore the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Civil Partnership (Fees) Order (Northern Ireland) 2005 was drafted and made on 4 November 2005. The provisions came into operation from 5 December 2005 and allowed for the increase in the fees payable for registration services including birth/death certificates and marriage preliminaries as well as introducing new fees for civil partnership preliminaries and registration.

Communication

Websites

During 2005/2006 NISRA launched new internet and intranet sites. The new internet site, which encompasses a number of specific sub-sites [Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS), Northern Ireland Census Access (NICA), National Statistics, Central Survey Unit, Equality, Demography, General Register Office and Census] provides NISRA with a 'shop window' to the world and a means of disseminating its products and services within government and to the public alike.

The new intranet site, which is accessible by all Agency staff, addresses many of the communication issues highlighted in the Human Resources Strategy, the Staff Survey and the IIP Assessor's report and meets many of the improvements recommended by the NISRA Communication Sub-Group.

Agency Publications

The Agency has continued to disseminate official statistics and research findings through the publication of reports and press releases in both hard copy and electronic formats. Consistent with our strategic objective to disseminate official statistics on Northern Ireland, during 2005/2006 the Agency produced 148 statistical publications and 54 research publications (Annex 2).

Information Management

NISRA is an information-based business. The service it delivers to its customers, whether internal or external, depends on how well it can create and use information to aid decision-making and analysis, and thereby meet its business objectives. This information needs to be recorded and stored in a shared area that allows easy access.

The Agency, in common with many organisations, is seeking to manage its information resources more effectively. It is essential that the Agency continues to commit resources to managing this information and this is especially important since the introduction of the Freedom of Information Act in January 2005. The Act requires NISRA to make its information assets more accessible to the public and places increased demands on staff to search and retrieve information within very tight timescales.

The Information Manager (IM) together with representatives from each business area, namely Support Information Managers (SIM), have been and will be in future, working on a number of projects to help improve records management within the Agency, e.g. a Disposal and Retention Schedule has been certified by PRONI and is included in the Publication Scheme, file reviews are carried out on an annual basis with formal records retained and audits of electronic information completed.

The Agency has also provided the Department of Finance and Personnel with a file plan which has been amalgamated with all the other business areas within the Department. This file plan has been successfully integrated into the File Management System for registered files and the Document Management System for the storage of electronic records. The categories within the file plan will also be mapped into a new Electronic Document Record Management System (EDRMS) that is due for implementation in NISRA in November 2006.

The EDRMS will provide a single corporate repository for managing electronic records and allows for systematic filing, storage, management, retrieval and disposal of documents. Unlike manual record-keeping systems, EDRMS enables the effective sharing of information and contributes to the flow of knowledge throughout and across organisations. The flexibility offered in terms of access, searching and retrieval, as well as the co-ordination of content provided by an EDRMS unlocks aspects of information not previously possible within a paper environment.

As a result of introducing these systems and procedures NISRA will be in a better position to deal with all record management issues.

Human Resources

NISRA recognises how critical getting the right staff is to the success of meeting customer needs and maximising the performance of the Agency. Over the past year the following approaches have been used to ensure that this happens.

Recruitment

In order to heighten awareness of NISRA as an employer the Agency has attended career fairs and university events to inform students about a career within NISRA.

During 2005/2006 a recruitment competition was launched for Assistant Statisticians. This was preceded by advance marketing to raise awareness of the competition in universities throughout the UK. Each university received a poster and e-mail notification of the Recruitment Competition. The outcome of this competition will be reported on in the 2006/2007 year.

Staff Movement

NISRA continues to operate a transfer system for statistical staff. Allied to this the intranet is used to advertise vacancies within the Agency so staff can identify opportunities to work in areas of interest to them.

Training and Development

Throughout 2005/2006 NISRA continued to demonstrate its commitment to meeting the development needs of its staff thereby ensuring that all staff have the necessary skills to perform their duties competently.

Corporate Provided Training

The nature of the work in NISRA necessitates delivery of specialist training, in addition to training that is on offer from NICS Training & Development Units. The 2005/06 NISRA Training and Development Plan was designed to be proactive and in this respect the NISRA Staff Development (SD) Group identified courses, which could be beneficial to colleagues; and where appropriate, investigated ways of organising, brokering, and delivering these courses to NISRA staff. The SD Group also identified staff within NISRA with expertise in specialist areas and by arranging for them to deliver training exclusively in-house, achieved better value for money.

Corporate Provided Training and Development for 2005/06 included programmes such as:

- Describing Date.
- Analysis of Variance.
- Regression Modelling.
- Statistical Inference.
- SPSS Intermediate.
- Management Development Training - Certificate.
- Management Development Training - Diploma.
- Sampling Design & Methods.
- Healthworks.

Departmental Training & Development

In addition to generic professional training and development, staff have training and development needs which are specific to their job/branch/department and are detailed in branch training plans. Concordats between NISRA and NICS Departments provide for Departments to facilitate the provision of appropriate departmental specific training and development.

Through the provision of effective training and development, NISRA aims to link all training and development

objectives with its core business aims. This is achieved through the completion of agreed Personal Development Plans (PDPs) for each member of staff, informed by their Personal Performance Agreement (PPA).

NISRA staff attended a variety of Departmental training courses during 2005/06 and these included:

- Presentational Skills.
- Quicker Reading.
- Advanced Microsoft Word.
- MS Excel for finance staff.
- Powerpoint.
- Access 2000 Intermediate.

On-line Training Courses

NISRA continues to encourage staff to use online training and staff availed of the following courses during the period of this report:

- European Computer Driving License (ECDL).
- Access 2000 Core.
- Access 2000 Fundamentals.
- Performance Management.
- Quality Management.
- Managerial Leadership.

Post Training & Development Evaluation

All training and development is evaluated to assess its usefulness. The evaluation system provides information on how new knowledge and skills from training and development activities are transferred and used in the workplace, and the impact they have on individual, team and Agency performance. This information demonstrates the value of investing in training and development.

NISRA Staff Induction Training

Induction training is now delivered via NISRAnet to staff within a month of joining the Agency; ensuring that staff receive the relevant information in a timely manner.

The NISRA induction programme supplements the Departmental induction programme.

Seminars

Four seminars were organised and delivered during the period covered by this report. The seminar topics were as follows:

- Mike Stevenson, Queens University Belfast, gave a presentation on 'Statistical Process Control'. (April 2005)
- Sinead Kennedy from Framar Health carried out food intolerance testing over a period of two days. This was conducted in response to feedback from staff at the 2004 NISRA Conference. (September 2005)
- Mike Hughes from the Office for National Statistics spoke about Public Confidence in Official Statistics. The presentation included details of recent ONS research on this topic, outlined the genesis of the work, methods used and the issues raised by the research findings. (November 2005)
- The Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) and the Economic and Social Research Centre (ESRC) held a joint seminar in January 2006. Session One presented information on ESDS Government surveys for social capital research and Session Two provided an introduction to the use of social network analysis. (January 2006)

Investors in People (IiP)

The Northern Ireland Quality Centre carried out an IiP review of NISRA during November 2004 and the Assessors Report confirmed that NISRA had been successful in retaining its status as an IiP organisation.

The IiP award benchmarks the organisation against set standards and recognises the Agency's contribution and commitment to its staff.

A further review will be due before November 2007 and it is recommended that NISRA use Profile as an assessment option which enables organisations to continuously improve by allowing them to take an in depth look at their strengths and weaknesses.

Employer Supported Volunteer Scheme

NISRA continued to support the Employer Supported Volunteer (ESV) Scheme throughout 2005/2006. ESV is organised by the Voluntary Service Bureau and aims to help organisations to contribute to their community by involving employees as volunteers to complete Challenges' for local voluntary and community organisations.

In 2005/2006 NISRA staff participated in the following events:

- Staff in DMB, Census and CSU spent a day at Belfast Zoo. Activities involved clearing debris from the chimpanzee and gorilla enclosures, building perches for monkeys and painting around zoo facilities. The event received wide publicity including coverage on the BBC Newsline Programme;
- The 'Jeans for Genes' Appeal in McAuley House raised £138.83;
- A number of staff attended Mount Stewart with representatives from the Senior Civil Service to clear areas and cut down trees;
- Staff donated 65 shoe boxes containing items for young children in disadvantaged countries;
- CSU organised the 'Big Breakfast' in aid of Cancer Research this year and raised a total of £460;
- 170 Easter eggs were collected for the Welcome Trust and the Children's Hospice;
- NISRA Social Committee hosted a quiz evening and raised £1,700 for Cancer Research;
- Staff in HRCS this year raised enough money to purchase a cow for a third world country;
- Staff participated as a relay team in the Belfast Marathon and raised £1005.50 for the Meningitis Trust; and
- The General Register Office held a coffee morning and raised £145 for the Northern Ireland Hospice.

Risk Management

NISRA Health and Safety committee met twice to discuss issues affecting all NISRA staff. All issues identified have been resolved or are currently being implemented.

Two planned practice fire evacuations took place in the past year. Evacuation of all staff was completed satisfactorily and no incidents reported.

All General and Display Screen Equipment Risk Assessments for McAuley House have been conducted.

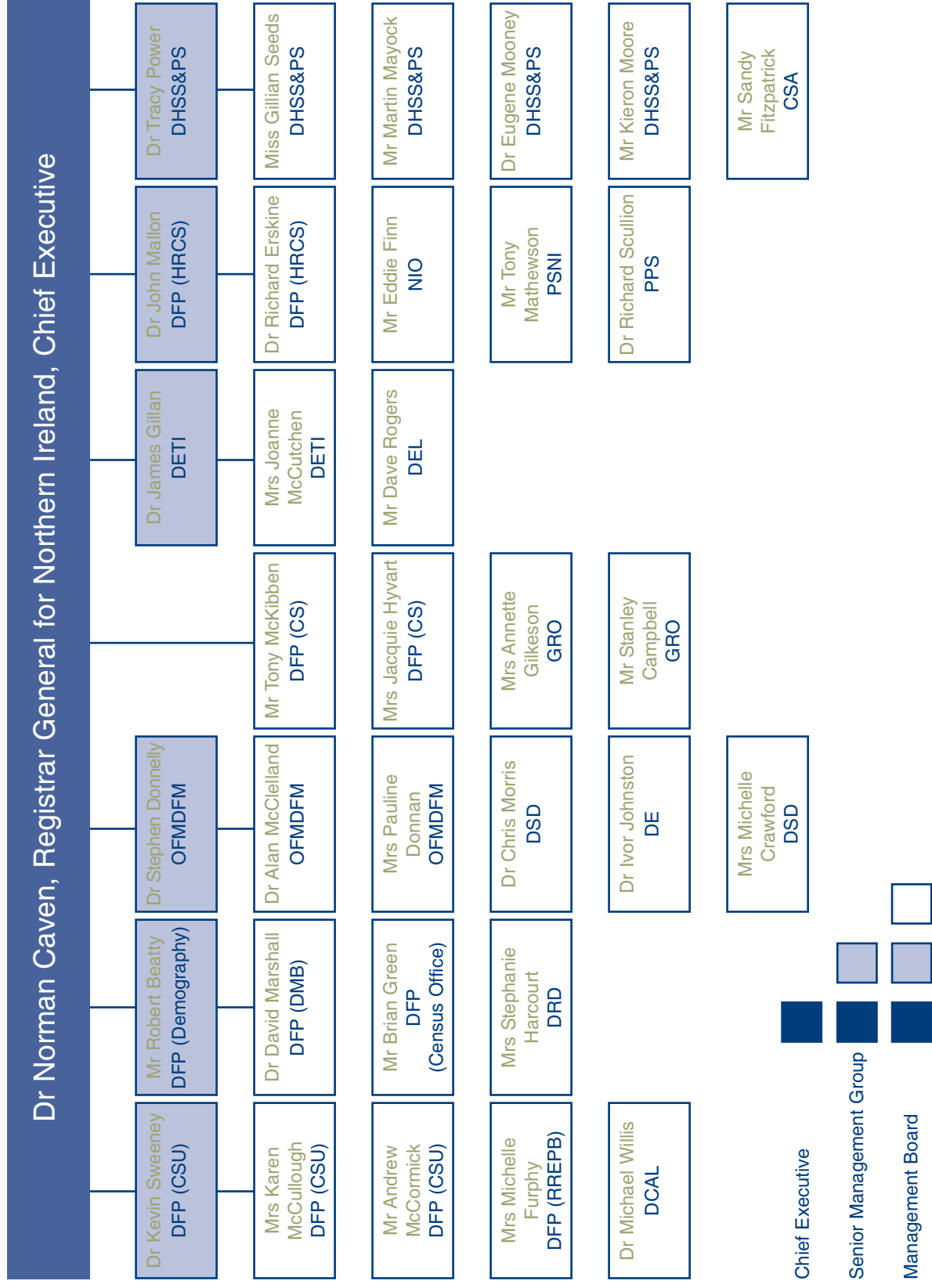
Corporate Governance

The Agency has developed its corporate governance arrangements and is fully committed to achieving compliance with HM Treasury requirements and any guidance issued by Accountability and Accountancy Services Division (AASD), within the prescribed timescales. The system of internal control in NISRA is based on an ongoing process that identifies the principle risks on the achievement of Agency and Departmental policies, aims and objectives. It is designed to evaluate the nature and extent of those risks and manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

NISRA's Corporate Governance includes:

- Business planning;
- Risk management;
- the Audit and Risk Committee;
- Audits - internal and external;
- a Statement of Internal Control;
- Stewardship Statements; and
- Fraud and Whistleblowing policies.

Annex 1: Nisra Management Organisational Chart



Annex 2: Publications in 2005/2006

Statistical Publications

- 1 NI Construction Bulletin Quarter 1
- 2 NI Construction Bulletin Quarter 2
- 3 NI Construction Bulletin Quarter 3
- 4 NI Construction Bulletin Quarter 4
- 5 Continuous Household Survey Bulletin 2004/2005
- 6 Children's Order Statistical Bulletin 2005
- 7 Children's Order Statistical Tables 2003/04
- 8 Children's Order Statistical Tables 2004/05
- 9 Community Statistics 2004/05
- 10 Monthly Guesthouse and Bed & Breakfast Occupancy Report
- 11 Monthly Hotel Occupancy Report
- 12 Survey of Guesthouse and Bed & Breakfast Accommodation Annual Report 2004
- 13 Survey of Hotel Accommodation Annual Report 2004
- 14 Survey of Self-catering Accommodation Annual Report 2004
- 15 Survey of Visitor Attractions Annual Report 2004
- 16 Regional / Local Authority Tourism Estimates 2004
- 17 Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education: Northern Ireland 2003/04
- 18 Student Enrolments on Higher Education courses: Northern Ireland 2004/05
- 19 Students Gaining Higher Education Qualifications: Northern Ireland 2004/05
- 20 New Deal for 18 to 24 Year Olds in Northern Ireland: Statistics to March 2005
- 21 New Deal 25+ in Northern Ireland: Statistics to March 2005
- 22 New Deal for 18 to 24 Year Olds in Northern Ireland: Statistics to June 2005
- 23 New Deal 25+ in Northern Ireland: Statistics to June 2005
- 24 New Deal for 18 to 24 Year Olds in Northern Ireland: Statistics to September 2005
- 25 New Deal 25+ in Northern Ireland: Statistics to September 2005
- 26 New Deal for 18 to 24 Year Olds in Northern Ireland: Statistics to December 2005
- 27 New Deal 25+ in Northern Ireland: Statistics to December 2005
- 28 The PSNI Statistical Report 2004/05
- 29 PSNI Road Traffic Collision Statistics Annual Report 2004

Statistical Publications *(continued)*

- 30 Magistrates Court Bulletin Jan-Mar 2005
- 31 Magistrates Court Bulletin Apr-Jun 2005
- 32 Magistrates Court Bulletin Jul-Sep 2005
- 33 Magistrates Court Bulletin Oct-Dec 2005
- 34 Crown Court Bulletin Jan-Mar 2005
- 35 Crown Court Bulletin Apr-Jun 2005
- 36 Crown Court Bulletin Jul-Sep 2005
- 37 Crown Court Bulletin Oct-Dec 2005
- 38 Children's Order Bulletin Jan-Mar 2005
- 39 Children's Order Bulletin Apr-Jun 2005
- 40 Children's Order Bulletin Jul-Sep 2005
- 41 Children's Order Bulletin Oct-Dec 2005
- 42 Mortgage Press Release Jan-Mar 2005
- 43 Mortgage Press Release Apr-Jun 2005
- 44 Mortgage Press Release Jul-Sep 2005
- 45 Mortgage Press Release Oct-Dec 2005
- 46 Judicial Statistics 2005
- 47 StatisDCAL - Libraries Bulletin - DCAL Research and Statistical Bulletin 1/2006
- 48 Enrolments at Schools and in Funded Pre-school Education in Northern Ireland 2004/05
- 49 Enrolments at Grant-aided Primary and Post-primary Schools 2005/06: Basic Statistics
- 50 Enrolments at Schools and in Funded Pre-school Education in Northern Ireland 2005/06
- 51 Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers 2003/04 (Revised)
- 52 Pupil:Teacher Ratios In Grant Aided Schools In Northern Ireland 2004/05
- 53 Participation In Full-Time Education By 16 and 17 Year Olds In Northern Ireland 2004/05
- 54 The PSNI Statistical Report 2004/05
- 55 PSNI Road Traffic Collision Statistics Annual Report 2004
- 56 Quarterly Waiting List/Time Statistics
- 57 Hospital Statistics 2004/2005
- 58 Northern Ireland Transport Statistics - September 2005
- 59 Northern Ireland Road and Rail Transport Statistics -Quarterly Bulletin -January to March 2005
- 60 Northern Ireland Road and Rail Transport Statistics -Quarterly Bulletin -April to June 2005
- 61 Northern Ireland Road and Rail Transport Statistics -Quarterly Bulletin -July to September 2005

Statistical Publications *(continued)*

- 62 Northern Ireland Road and Rail Transport Statistics -Quarterly Bulletin -October to December 2005
- 63 Northern Ireland Family Practitioner Services Statistical Report 2003-04
- 64 Northern Ireland Annual Abstract of Statistics 2005
- 65 2003 Labour Force Survey Religion Report Update (June 2005).
- 66 Northern Ireland Civil Service Workforce Health and Well-Being Survey 2005
- 67 Analysis of Sickness Absence in the NI Departments 2004/05
- 68 Key Personnel Statistics in the NI Departments
- 69 CPG Pathfinder for Workplace 2010 - Royston House Post-Occupancy Evaluation Report
- 70 Northern Ireland Statistics on the Operation of the Terrorism Act 2000: January - June 2005
- 71 Northern Ireland Prison Population Projections 2005 - 2009
- 72 Views on Organised Crime in Northern Ireland: Findings from the January 2005 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey
- 73 Experience of Drug Misuse: Findings from the 2003/04 Northern Ireland Crime Survey
- 74 Northern Ireland Statistics on the Operation of the Terrorism Act 2000: Annual Statistics 2004
- 75 The Northern Ireland Prison Population in 2004
- 76 Predicting Reconviction Rates in Northern Ireland
- 77 Public Attitudes Towards Crime and Recovery of Assets by the Assets Recovery Agency in Northern Ireland: Findings from the July 2005 Northern Omnibus Survey
- 78 A Commentary on Northern Ireland Crime Statistics 2004
- 79 Statistics from the Northern Ireland Needle and Syringe Exchange Scheme: 1 April 2004 - 31 March 2005, Published September 2005
- 80 Census of Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services in Northern Ireland: 1 March 2005, Published September 2005
- 81 Statistics from the Northern Ireland Drug Misuse Database: 1 April 2004 - 31 March 2005, Published October 2005
- 82 Statistics from the Northern Ireland Drug Addicts Index 2005, Published March 2006
- 83 Public Perceptions of the Police and the Northern Ireland Policing Board Report Based on the Northern Ireland Policing Board Module of the April 2005 Omnibus Survey
- 84 Public Perceptions of the Police and the Northern Ireland Policing Board Report Based on the Northern Ireland Policing Board Module of the September 2005 Omnibus Survey
- 85 Police Service of Northern Ireland 2004/05 Quality of Service Survey (joint survey with PSNI)
- 86 Income Support Publication
- 87 Pension Credit Publication
- 88 Jobseekers Allowance Publication
- 89 Summary Social Security Statistics (Quarterly)
- 90 Client Group Analysis

Statistical Publications *(continued)*

- 91 Retirement Pension Publication
- 92 N.I.Social Security (Summary Statistics)
- 93 Carers Allowance (Summary Statistics)
- 94 Disability Living Allowance (Summary Statistics)
- 95 Attendance Allowance (Summary Statistics)
- 96 Incapacity Benefit / Severe Disablement Allowance (Summary Statistics)
- 97 NI HPSS Workforce Census March 2005
- 98 General Medical Service Quality and Outcomes Framework Indicators - 2004/05
- 99 Labour Market Report - Contains Claimant Count and Monthly Estimates
- 100 Labour Force Survey - Quarterly Supplement 1
- 101 Labour Force Survey - Quarterly Supplement 2
- 102 Labour Force Survey - Quarterly Supplement 3
- 103 Labour Force Survey - Quarterly Supplement 4
- 104 Inter-Departmental Business Register - Facts and Figures
- 105 Quarterly Employment Survey - Quarter 1
- 106 Quarterly Employment Survey - Quarter 2
- 107 Quarterly Employment Survey - Quarter 3
- 108 Quarterly Employment Survey - Quarter 4
- 109 Northern Ireland Manufacturing Sales and Exports Survey 2004/05
- 110 Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry
- 111 Index of Production - Quarter 1
- 112 Index of Production - Quarter 2
- 113 Index of Production - Quarter 3
- 114 Index of Production - Quarter 4
- 115 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings
- 116 Northern Ireland Research and Development Survey
- 117 Northern Ireland Ports Traffic 2004
- 118 Women in Northern Ireland
- 119 Northern Ireland Coal Inquiry
- 120 Labour Force Survey - Local Area Database
- 121 Labour Force Survey - Historical Supplement
- 122 Graduates in the Labour Market in Northern Ireland 2005

Statistical Publications *(continued)*

- 123 Petroleum Products
- 124 Northern Ireland Index of Services (Experimental) Quarters 1 - 4
- 125 Insurance Survey
- 126 Exporting Northern Ireland Services Study (Experimental) 2003
- 127 Index of Services - Quarter 1
- 128 Index of Services - Quarter 2
- 129 Index of Services - Quarter 3
- 130 Index of Services - Quarter 4
- 131 Northern Ireland Economic Bulletin 2005
- 132 Key Statistics for Settlements
- 133 Key Statistics for Super Output Areas
- 134 The Future Provision of Demographic Statistics in Northern Ireland (Towards the 2011 Census)
- 135 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005
- 136 Quarterly Registrar General Report (2004-1)
- 137 Mid-year Population Estimates (2004)
- 138 Development of Methods/Sources to Estimate Population Migration in Northern Ireland
- 139 Baby Names 2004 Bulletin
- 140 Quarterly Registrar General Report (2004-2)
- 141 Marriages and Divorces in Northern Ireland (2004)
- 142 Deaths registered in Northern Ireland with Methicillin Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) mentioned on the death certificate (Update)
- 143 2004 Population Projections for Northern Ireland
- 144 Annual Report of the Registrar General NI (2004)
- 145 Quarterly Registrar General Report (2004-3)
- 146 Baby Names 2005 (Press Release)
- 147 Quarterly Registrar General Report (2004-4)
- 148 Births and Deaths in Northern Ireland (2005)

Research Publications

- 1 Research Bulletin 6: Consultation issues relating to the future of local government in Northern Ireland
- 2 Views on Key Aspects of Proposals for the Review of Public Administration
- 3 Case Study Analyses for RPA on Community Planning in Operation within the UK and Ireland
- 4 Checks, Balances and Safeguards. Published 22nd November 2005
- 5 Exercise to Estimate the Costs and Efficiencies of the Review of Public Administration Proposals
- 6 Pathways and Outcomes - A Ten Year Follow up Study of Children who have Experienced Care
- 7 Northern Ireland's graduates: the classes of '95 and '99
- 8 Northern Ireland domiciled higher education applicants: An analysis of UCAS data - 2003/04 academic year
- 9 A Study of the Northern Ireland Labour Market for Construction Skills
- 10 Labour Market Bulletin #19
- 11 PSNI Road Traffic Collisions Research Series No. 1: An Evaluation of the Bikesafe Scheme in Northern Ireland
- 12 PSNI Road Traffic Collisions Research Series No. 2: An Analysis of Seatbelt Wearing in Northern Ireland: 2000-2004
- 13 PSNI Road Traffic Collisions Research Series No. 3: Motorcyclist Collisions and Casualties in Northern Ireland : 2000-2004
- 14 Policing, Accountability and the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Community in Northern Ireland (joint publication with NIPB).
- 15 Policing, Accountability and the Black and Minority Ethnic Communities in Northern Ireland (joint publication with NIPB).
- 16 Equality Monitoring Report
- 17 Baton Rounds Report 2005
- 18 Police Identification in Northern Ireland. A Report Under Section 60A of the Police (NI) Act 1998
- 19 An Evaluation of Police Led Informal Resolution of Police Complaints in Northern Ireland: The Complainants' Perspective
- 20 Analysis of CS Spray Use During 2004
- 21 Public Awareness of the System for Complaints Against the Police in Northern Ireland 2005
- 22 A Study into Current Practice and Potential Models for the Effective Teaching of Personal Development at Key Stage 3 in the Northern Ireland Curriculum
- 23 Parental Attitudes to the Statutory Assessment and Statementing Procedures on Special Educational Needs
- 24 The Nature of Youth Work in Northern Ireland: Purpose, Contribution and Challenges
- 25 Attitudes of the Socially Disadvantaged Towards Education in Northern Ireland
- 26 Language Development Programmes - Coverage and Effectiveness of Provision in Northern Ireland (0-36 months)
- 27 Northern Ireland Road Safety Monitor 2005
- 28 Northern Ireland Road Safety Monitor Bulletin 2005

Research Publications *(continued)*

- 29 Northern Ireland Seatbelt Survey Report 2005
- 30 Northern Ireland Seatbelt Survey Bulletin 2005
- 31 Poverty and Social Exclusion Project - Carers in Northern Ireland
- 32 Poverty and Social Exclusion Project - Overlaps Between Different Poverty Measures
- 33 Personal Over-Indebtedness in Northern Ireland
- 34 Poverty and Social Exclusion Project - Gender and Poverty in Northern Ireland
- 35 Labour Market Dynamics
- 36 Equality Monitoring Research Project
- 37 Water Affordability under the Water Reform Proposals
- 38 Poverty and Social Exclusion Project - Social Exclusion in Northern Ireland
- 39 Poverty and Social Exclusion Project - Household and Individual Characteristics
- 40 Poverty and Social Exclusion Project - Pensioner Households in Northern Ireland
- 41 Attitudes to Behaviours and Life Choices among Young People in Northern Ireland
- 42 Population Change and Social Inclusion Study - Derry/Londonderry
- 43 No Longer a Problem? Sectarian Violence in Northern Ireland
- 44 Evaluation of the Northern Ireland Youth Conference Service
- 45 Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland -: First Results (Revised) from the 2002/2003 Drug Prevalence Survey, Bulletin 1, Published June 2005
- 46 Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland - 2002/2003 Drug Prevalence Survey: Health Board (Ireland) & Health and Social Services Board (Northern Ireland) Results (Revised), Bulletin 2, Published June 2005
- 47 Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland - 2002/2003 Drug Prevalence Survey: Cannabis Results, Bulletin 3, Published October 2005
- 48 Secondary Analysis of the 2003 Young Persons Behaviour and Attitudes Survey (Drug, Solvents and Alcohol), Published November 2005
- 49 Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland - 2002/2003 Drug Prevalence Survey: Cocaine Results, Bulletin 4, Published January 2006
- 50 Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland -: First Results (Revised) from the 2002/2003 Drug Prevalence Survey, Bulletin 1 Confidence Intervals, Published March 2006
- 51 Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland - 2002/2003 Drug Prevalence Survey: Health Board (Ireland) & Health and Social Services Board (Northern Ireland) Results (Revised), Bulletin 2 Confidence Intervals, Published March 2006
- 52 2002/2003 All Ireland Drug Prevalence Survey: Technical Report, Published February 2006
- 53 Young people's attitudes and experiences of policing, violence and community safety in North Belfast
- 54 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures 2005

Glossary

BSP	Building Sustainable Prosperity
CAI	Computer Assisted Interviewing
CB	Corporate Branch
CONI	Census Office Northern Ireland
CIB	Community Information Branch
CSA	Central Services Agency
CSO	Central Statistical Office (Dublin)
CSU	Central Survey Unit
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DCAL	Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
DE	Department of Education
DETI	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
DEL	Department for Employment and Learning
DFP	Department of Finance and Personnel
DHSSPS	Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
DMB	Demography and Methodology Branch
DRD	Department for Rural Development
DSD	Department for Social Development
EIA	Equality Impact Assessment
EFS	Expenditure and Food Survey
ESRI	Economic and Social Research Institute
ESV	Employer Supported Volunteering
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographical Information System
GRO	General Register Office
GSR	Government Social Research
GVA	Gross Value Added
HPSS	Health and Personal Social Services
HR	Human Resources
HRCS	Human Resource Consultancy Services
IDBR	Inter-Departmental Business Register

Glossary (*continued*)

IIP	Investors in People
IT	Information Technology
MB	Management Board
NAS	Needs Assessment Survey
NCRS	National Crime Recording System
New TSN	New Targeting Social Need
NI	Northern Ireland
NICA	Northern Ireland Census Access
NICS	Northern Ireland Civil Service
NICtS	Northern Ireland Court Service
NIO	Northern Ireland Office
NINIS	Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service
NIPB	Northern Ireland Policing Board
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
NITB	Northern Ireland Tourist Board
NS	National Statistics
OFMDFM	Office of First Minister and Deputy First Minister
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PRONI	Public Records Office of Northern Ireland
PSAB	Project Support Analysis Branch
PSNI	Police Service of Northern Ireland
RREP	Regional Reporting and EU Programmes Branch
RSS	Royal Statistical Society
SAC	Statistics Advisory Committee
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SMG	Senior Management Group
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Scientists
SSPPR	Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation
UK	United Kingdom
VLA	Valuation and Lands Agency

Accounts

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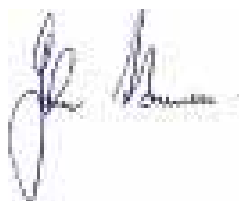
Statement of Agency's and Accounting Officer's Responsibilities

Under Section 11(2) of the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001, the Department of Finance and Personnel have directed the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency to prepare a statement of accounts for each financial year in the form and on the basis set out in the accounts direction. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the Agency's state of affairs at the end of the year and of its income and expenditure, recognised gains and losses and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the accounts the Agency is required to:

- observe the accounts direction issued by the Department of Finance and Personnel, including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- make judgments and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- state whether applicable accounting standards as set out in FReM have been followed, and disclose and explain any material departures in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Agency will continue in business.

The Accounting Officer for the Department of Finance and Personnel has appointed the Chief Executive of Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency as the Accounting Officer for the Agency. The Chief Executive's relevant responsibilities as Accounting Officer, including his responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which he is answerable and for the keeping of proper records, are set out in the Accounting Officers' Memorandum published in Government Accounting Northern Ireland issued by the Department of Finance and Personnel.



John Hunter
Accounting Officer
22 June 2006

Statement of Internal Control

Scope of Responsibility

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency's policies, aims and objectives, whilst safeguarding the public funds and departmental assets for which I am personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me in Government Accounting Northern Ireland.

NISRA is an executive Agency within the Department of Finance and Personnel and as such consults and takes direction from the departmental Minister. The Chief Executive reports to the Minister about major issues affecting the Agency including actual and potential risks.

Twice a year he provides the Departmental Accounting Officer with a written statement (Stewardship Statement) that risks remain appropriate and that controls identified are adequate, effective and have operated throughout the period.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Agency's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in the Agency for the year ended 31 March 2006 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts, and accords with DFP guidance.

Capacity to Handle Risk

I, as Accounting Officer, recognise the importance of managing risks effectively and take the lead in the continued development of a risk management framework. The Agency has identified all significant risks to its business and has developed a NISRA Risk Register. The Risk Register complements the Agency's Corporate Plan, Business Plan and financial management, and together these provide the systems to manage the Agency's resources whilst minimising the risks to achieving business outputs.

The Risk Register is managed in the first instance by the Senior Management Group (SMG), which reviews actions and considers appropriate future actions. Each SMG member is responsible for managing risks within their areas of responsibility and provide assurance to the Chief Executive that risks are being actively managed and minimised. This involves close liaison with respective Heads of Branches. In line with DFP guidance, NISRA continues to include appropriate assurances in subsequent Annual Report and Accounts publications.

The Risk and Control Framework

I subscribe to the process leading to the production of the Statement of Internal Control that is an annual hierarchical stewardship reporting arrangement. This is a bottom-up process and key risk owners as identified in Risk Control Frameworks provide a written statement (Stewardship Statement) that risks remain appropriate and that controls identified are adequate, effective and have operated throughout the period. Risk owners are required to highlight areas where deficiencies are possible or breakdowns in control have actually occurred.

An Audit and Risk Committee is established consisting of members of the NISRA Senior Management Group and representatives of the departmental Internal Audit and the Northern Ireland Audit Office.

For the period this Statement of Internal Control covers, six key business risks were identified and were as follows:

- Internal/external factors damage the quality, integrity and independence of official statistics and research;
- Failure to recruit and retain statistical staff with appropriate skills/competences;
- Failure to manage resources effectively;
- Failure to maintain or improve customer service;
- Failure to manage information effectively and respond to National Statistics and new Freedom of Information requirements; and
- Failure to deliver on the 2011 Census.

The risk owner was identified for each risk and an evaluation carried out of how the risk was currently being managed, the effectiveness of those controls and what additional actions were required to fully manage it. Risks were assessed for degree of impact (on a scale from minor to catastrophic) and likelihood of occurrence (on a scale from unlikely to almost certain). Risks were formally reviewed twice during the year by the Audit & Risk Committee.

Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. His review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal auditors and the executive managers within the Agency who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and comments made by the external auditors in their management letter and other reports. He has been advised on the implications, of the result of his review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control by the Senior Management Group and the Audit and Risk Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

The purpose of the Audit and Risk Committee is to manage and direct the risk management process and enable assurances to be provided. The Committee has responsibility for assessing the adequacy of audit arrangements (internal and external) and assessing the implications of assurances provided in respect of risk and control across the Agency.

The Chief Executive provided the Committee with a mid-year Stewardship Statement for 2005/06 which covered the review of the Agency risk register and the adequacy of risk management and internal control within the Agency.

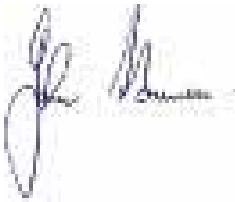
The remit of the Committee includes due consideration of the adequacy of risk management and internal control. The Committee focuses on the NISRA Business Risk Register. At each meeting written reports are submitted by each member providing a balanced assessment of the system of control utilised to manage the risks for which they are directly responsible. Any significant control failings or weaknesses identified are discussed, including the impact that they have had, could have had, or may have and the actions being taken to rectify them. Other Committee members and attendees provide the challenge function. In general, the range of issues that are considered include:

- Have any new significant risks been identified?
- Are risks previously identified still acceptable?
- Do risks need to be promoted or relegated in the NISRA Risk Register or the DFP Corporate Risk Register?
- Do control strategies need to be changed?
- Do amendments need to be made to procedures?

- Is additional monitoring of the system required?
- Are the communication channels throughout NISRA effective, or do amendments need to be made?

In addition, the Committee is responsible for reviewing:

- The mechanisms for the assessment and management of risk;
- The planned activity of internal audit;
- The results of internal audit activity;
- The planned activity of external audit;
- The results of external audit activity;
- Adequacy of management response to issues identified by audit;
- The arrangements made for co-operation between internal audit, external audit and other review bodies; and
- Activity assurances relating to the corporate governance requirements for NISRA.



John Hunter
Accounting Officer
22 June 2006

THE CERTIFICATE AND REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency for the year ended 31 March 2006 under the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001. These comprise the Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Recognised Gains and Losses, the Balance Sheet, the Cashflow Statement and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them.

Respective responsibilities of the Agency, the Chief Executive and Auditor

The Agency and Chief Executive are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 and Department of Finance and Personnel directions made thereunder and for ensuring the regularity of financial transactions. These responsibilities are set out in the Statement of Agency's and Accounting Officer's Responsibilities.

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements, and with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

I report to you my opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and whether the Financial Statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited have been properly prepared in accordance with Department of Finance and Personnel's directions issued under the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001. I also report whether in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. I also report to you if, in my opinion, the Annual Report is not consistent with the financial statements, if the Agency has not kept proper accounting records, if I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit, or if information specified by relevant authorities regarding remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed.

I review whether the statement on pages 44 to 46 reflects the Agency's compliance with the Department of Finance

and Personnel's guidance on the Statement on Internal Control, and I report if it does not. I am not required to consider whether the Accounting Officer's statements on internal control cover all risks and controls, or to form an opinion on the effectiveness of the Agency's corporate governance procedures or its risk and control procedures.

I read the other information contained in the Annual Report and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. This other information comprises only the Accounting Officer's Foreword, Introduction, Management Commentary, the unaudited part of the Remuneration Report, Progress in Key Business Areas, Customers, Modernisation of Registration Service, Communication, Information Management, Human Resources, Training and Development, Employer Supported Volunteer Scheme, Risk Management, Corporate Governance, Annex 1, Annex 2 and Glossary. I consider the implications for my report if I become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. My responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

Basis of audit opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. My audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts, disclosures and regularity of financial transactions included in the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the Agency and Chief Executive in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Agency's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error and that in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. In forming my opinion I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited.

Opinion

In my opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 and directions made thereunder by the Department of Finance and Personnel, of the state of the Agency's affairs as at 31 March 2006 and of the net cost of operations, recognised gains and losses and cashflows for the year then ended;
- the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited have been properly prepared in accordance with Department of Finance and Personnel directions issued under the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001; and
- in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.



J M Dowdall CB
Comptroller and Auditor General
27 June 2006

Northern Ireland Audit Office
106 University Street
Belfast BT7 1EU

The maintenance and integrity of NISRA's website is the responsibility of the Accounting Officer; the work carried out by the auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and accordingly the auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the website.

Income and Expenditure Account

For the Year Ended 31 March 2006

	Notes	2006 £000	2005 £000
Income	2	<u>10,634</u>	<u>9,846</u>
Expenditure			
Staff Costs	4	11,715	10,857
Depreciation	7	524	155
Other operating costs	5	<u>4,389</u>	<u>4,448</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>16,628</u>	<u>15,460</u>
Cost of Operations Before Interest		(5,994)	(5,614)
Interest on Capital Employed	8	<u>(85)</u>	<u>(53)</u>
Net Cost of Operations		<u><u>(6,079)</u></u>	<u><u>(5,667)</u></u>

The net cost of operations arises wholly from continuing operations and are administrative in nature.

The notes on pages 51 to 59 form part of these accounts.

Statement of Recognised Gains and Losses

For the Year Ended 31 March 2006

	Notes	2006 £000	2005 £000
Unrealised surplus/ (deficit) on revaluation of fixed assets	11	<u>30</u>	<u>-</u>
Recognised Gains and Losses for the year		<u><u>30</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

The notes on pages 51 to 59 form part of these accounts.

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2006

	Notes	2006 £000	2005 £000
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets	7	<u>1,790</u>	<u>1,714</u>
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank		269	331
Work in Progress		65	93
Debtors	9	<u>1,545</u>	<u>1,769</u>
		1,879	2,193
Current Liabilities			
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(1,315)</u>	<u>(1,370)</u>
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)		<u>564</u>	<u>823</u>
Total Assets less Liabilities		<u><u>2,354</u></u>	<u><u>2,537</u></u>
Financed by:			
Revaluation Reserve	11	33	3
General Fund	11	<u>2,321</u>	<u>2,534</u>
		<u><u>2,354</u></u>	<u><u>2,537</u></u>



John Hunter

Accounting Officer

22 June 2006

The notes on pages 51 to 59 form part of these accounts.

Cash Flow Statement

For the Year ended 31 March 2006

		2006	2005
	Notes	£000	£000
Net Cash Outflow from Operating Activities	12.1	(4,202)	(4,661)
Capital Expenditure	12.2	<u>(532)</u>	<u>(1,273)</u>
		(4,734)	(5,934)
Cash Inflow from Financing	12.3	<u>4,672</u>	<u>6,265</u>
Increase /(decrease) in cash		<u><u>(62)</u></u>	<u><u>331</u></u>

The notes on pages 51 to 59 form part of these accounts.

Notes to Accounts

1.1 Statement of Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the 2005-06 Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) issued by the Department of Finance and Personnel. The accounting policies contained in FReM follows UK generally accepted accounting practice for companies (UK GAAP) to the extent that it is meaningful and appropriate to the public sector. Where the FReM permits a choice of accounting policy, the accounting policy that has been judged to be the most appropriate to the particular circumstances of the Agency for the purpose of giving a true and fair view has been selected.

The Agency's accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items considered material in relation to the accounts.

1.2 Accounting Convention

Without limiting the information given, the accounts comply with the accounting and disclosure requirements of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, the accounting standards issued or adopted by the Accounting Standards Board and accounting disclosure requirements issued by the Department of Finance and Personnel insofar as those requirements are appropriate.

1.3 Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are capitalised at their cost of acquisition and installation and are revalued annually by reference to appropriate indices compiled by the Office for National Statistics.

The threshold for capitalisation for computer equipment is £500 and for all other fixed assets £1,000. Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis in order to write-off the valuation, less estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life, or lease period if shorter. The base useful lives of assets, which are reviewed regularly, are as follows:

Computer equipment and software	3-6 years
Office Equipment	5-10 years
Telecoms Equipment	5-10 years

The Agency does not own the property it occupies, but incurs a notional charge for accommodation costs, which is included in the Income and Expenditure Account.

1.4 Pension Costs

The PCSPS(NI) is an unfunded defined benefit scheme which produces its own resource accounts, but NISRA is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities. The most up to date actuarial valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2003 and the details of this valuation are available in the PCSPS(NI) resource accounts.

For 2005-06, employers' contributions of £1,392k were payable to the PCSPS(NI) (2004-05 £1,003k) at one of four rates in the range 16.5 to 23.5 per cent of pensionable pay, based on salary bands (the rates in 2004-05 were between 12% to 18%). These rates have increased from 1 April 2005 as a result of the latest actuarial valuation. The contribution rates reflect benefits as they are accrued, not when the costs are actually incurred, and reflect past experience of the scheme.

Employees joining after 1 October 2002 could opt to open a partnership pension account, a stakeholder pension with an employer contribution. Employers' contributions were paid to one or more of a panel of four appointed stakeholder pension providers. Employer contributions are age-related and range from 3 to 12.5 per cent of pensionable pay. Employers also match employee contributions up to 3 per cent of pensionable pay. In addition, employer contributions of 0.8 per cent of pensionable pay, were payable to the PCSPS(NI) to cover the cost of future provision of lump sum benefits on death in service and ill health retirement of these employees.

1.5 Value Added Tax

All items in these accounts are exclusive of VAT which is recovered on a departmental basis.

1.6 Work in Progress

Work in progress is valued at the lower cost and net realisable value.

2. Income

	2006 £000	2005 £000
GRO	2,057	1,876
Statistical & Research Services	<u>8,577</u>	<u>7,970</u>
	<u>10,634</u>	<u>9,846</u>

The above income includes £15,000 from the Eastern Health and Social Services Board for Investing for Health in the Eastern Area.

3. Segmental Analysis of Business Attracting Fees and Charges

General Register Office

In setting fees for certificates, the General Register Office (GRO) aims to recover 100% of costs directly attributable to the estimated volume of produced certificates. In 2005/2006, GRO estimated that it would recover £1,070k (2004/2005: £1,032k) from the supply of certificates. The actual cost recovery for the year was £2,057k (2004/2005: £1,876k).

Central Survey Unit

In 2005/2006 Central Survey Unit (CSU) estimated that it would recover £2,600k (2004/2005: £2,100k) from carrying out surveys on behalf of Government Departments and Non Departmental Public Bodies. The actual cost recovery for the year was £2,461k (2004/2005: £2,407k).

The information provided in the table below is for fees and charges purposes, not for SSAP25 purposes.

	2006 £000	2005 £000
a) GRO		
Income	2,057	1,876
Expenditure	<u>(3,576)</u>	<u>(4,243)</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,519)	(2,367)
b) CSU		
Income	2,461	2,407
Expenditure	<u>(4,067)</u>	<u>(3,648)</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,606)	(1,241)
c) Other		
Income	6,116	5,563
Expenditure	<u>(9,070)</u>	<u>(7,622)</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>(2,954)</u>	<u>(2,059)</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>(6,079)</u>	<u>(5,667)</u>

Estimated income for future years is shown in the Corporate Plan 2006 - 2009.

4. Staff Numbers and Costs

4.1 The average number of full-time equivalent persons

employed during the year on each of the objectives of the Department of Finance and Personnel, plus NISRA staff outposted to other Departments, was:

	2006 No.	2005 No.
Statistical & Research Services	137	137
GRO	53	58
Outposted Staff	137	137
Other (Interviewers)	<u>73</u>	<u>65</u>
	<u>400</u>	<u>397</u>

4.2 The costs incurred in respect of these employees were:

	2006					2005
	£000					£000
	TOTAL	STAT & RESEARCH	GRO	OUT POSTED	OTHER	TOTAL
Salaries & Wages	9,620	3,263	825	3,909	1,623	9,170
Social Security Costs	703	250	53	310	90	684
Other Pension Costs	<u>1,392</u>	<u>569</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>694</u>	-	<u>1,003</u>
	<u>11,715</u>	<u>4,082</u>	<u>1,007</u>	<u>4,913</u>	<u>1,713</u>	<u>10,857</u>

4.3 Ill-health retirement

During the year 2005-06 there were no ill-health retirements.

5. Other Operating Costs

	2006	2005
	£000	£000
General Administrative Expenses	1,136	1,214
District Registration Office's costs	1,794	1,630
Computer Charges	329	108
Notional Costs (Note 6)	1,110	1,413
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	0	0
Diminution in Value of Fixed Assets	20	83
	<u>4,389</u>	<u>4,448</u>

6. Notional Costs

These costs relate to services received for which no actual payment is made. They are included in the accounts so as to reflect the full economic cost of provision.

	2006	2005
	£000	£000
Services provided by parent department		
Common Service Charge	2	2
Telecoms	28	25
Recruitment	1	14
ISU	217	319
Internal Audit	6	14
BDS - Training/Consultancy Services	1	25
Accommodation	823	973
VLA	0	1
	<u>1,078</u>	<u>1,373</u>
Other Notional Costs		
OSNI	-	-
NIAO	6	6
DRD - Graphic Design Unit	-	5
- Stats	26	29
	<u>32</u>	<u>40</u>
Total	<u>1,110</u>	<u>1,413</u>

7. Fixed Assets

	Computer Equipment £000	Office Machinery £000	Total £000
Cost or Valuation			
At 1 April 2005	2,450	99	2,549
Additions	518	14	532
Transfers in	1,263	-	1,263
Transfers out	(1,204)	-	(1,204)
Disposals	(118)	-	(118)
Indexation	(27)	(1)	(28)
Revaluations	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2006	<u>2,882</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>2,994</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2005	763	72	835
Transfers in	12	-	12
Charge for year	510	14	524
Transfers out	(10)	-	(10)
Disposals	(118)	-	(118)
Revaluation	(6)	-	(6)
Back log	<u>(31)</u>	<u>(2)</u>	<u>(33)</u>
At 31 March 2006	<u>1,120</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>1,204</u>
Net Book Value			
At 31 March 2006	<u>1,762</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>1,790</u>
At 31 March 2005	<u>1,687</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>1,714</u>

8. Interest of Capital Employed

	2006 £000	2005 £000
Interest on Capital	<u>85</u>	<u>53</u>

The Income and Expenditure Account bears a non-cash charge for interest relating to the use of capital by the Agency. The basis of the charge is 3.5% of the average capital employed, defined as total assets less liabilities.

9. Debtors (amounts due within one year)

	2006 £000	2005 £000
Trade debtors	1,080	1,391
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>465</u>	<u>378</u>
	<u>1,545</u>	<u>1,769</u>

10. Creditors (amounts falling due within one year)

	2006 £000	2005 £000
Accruals	<u>1,315</u>	<u>1,370</u>
	<u>1,315</u>	<u>1,370</u>

11. Reconciliation of Movements in Reserves and Government Funds

	Notes	General Fund £000	Revaluation Reserve £000	Total £000
At 1 April 2005		2,534	3	2,537
Net Grant	12.3	4,671	-	4,671
Net cost of Operations		(6,079)	-	(6,079)
Notional costs	6	1,110	-	1,110
Revaluation of Fixed Assets		-	30	30
Interest on capital		<u>85</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>85</u>
Balance at 31 March 2006		<u>2,321</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>2,354</u>

12 Notes to Cash Flow Statement

12.1 Reconciliation of net cost of operations to net cash flow from operating activities

	2006 £000	2005 £000
Net cost of operations before interest	(5,994)	(5,614)
Adjustment for non cash transactions		
Diminution in value of fixed assets	20	83
Depreciation	524	155
(Profit) / loss on disposal of assets	-	-
Notional costs	1,110	1,413
Transfer of fixed assets	(59)	(17)
Adjustments for movements in working capital		
Decrease / (Increase) WIP	28	(68)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	224	(826)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	<u>(55)</u>	<u>213</u>
Net cash outflow from operating activities	<u>(4,202)</u>	<u>(4,661)</u>

12.2 Capital expenditure and financial investment

	Note	2006 £000	2005 £000
Purchase of fixed assets	7	532	1,273
Sale of fixed assets		-	-
		<u>532</u>	<u>1,273</u>

12.3 Reconciliation of financing

	Note	2006 £000	2005 £000
Gross Grant			
- DFP Resource Account		15,318	15,288
Accruing Resources applied		<u>(10,646)</u>	<u>(9,023)</u>
Net Grant	11	<u>4,672</u>	<u>6,265</u>

When these accounts were drawn up, the DFP Resource Account for 2006 had not been finalised and the final figures for the amount appropriated were not available. Reconciliation will be made in the 2007 accounts if required.

13. Capital Commitments

There were no capital commitments at 31 March 2006 (2005: £204k)

14. Contingent Liabilities

NISRA has a potential liability with regard to the pension rights of Central Survey Unit Interviewers. No figures have been calculated yet as to the value of this liability.

15. Related Party Transactions

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency is an executive agency of the Department of Finance and Personnel.

The Department of Finance and Personnel is regarded as a related party. During the year, the Agency has had a number of material transactions with the Department, and with other executive agencies for which the Department is regarded as the parent Department.

In addition, NISRA had a number of material transactions with other Government Departments and other central Government bodies. Most of these have been with Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment, Department of Environment, Department of Education, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and its executive agencies. For further details please see note 16 to the accounts.

During the year, none of the board members, members of the key management staff or other related parties have undertaken any material transactions with the Agency.

16. Inter Government Balances

	Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year £000	Debtors: Amounts falling due after more than one year £000	Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year £000	Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year £000
Balances with other central government bodies	1,054	-	13	-
Balances with Local Authorities	415	-	893	-
Balances with NHS Trusts	-	-	-	-
Balances with public corporations and trading funds	-	-	-	-
Balances with bodies external to government	76	-	409	-
At 31 March 2006	1,545	-	1,315	-
Balances with other central government bodies	1,207	-	17	-
Balances with Local Authorities	281	-	824	-
Balances with NHS Trusts	-	-	-	-
Balances with public corporations and trading funds	-	-	-	-
Balances with bodies external to government	281	-	529	-
At 31 March 2005	1,769	-	1,370	-

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