FROM: DAVID THOMSON cc: Ciaran Doran
DATE: 11 JUNE 2008
TO: ACCOUNTING OFFICERS

ACCOUNTABILITY TRAINING FOR BOARD MEMBERS OF ARM’S LENGTH BODIES

1. In its recent report on arm’s length bodies, the Public Accounts Committee drew attention to the need for board members to be adequately trained and made a number of specific recommendations in relation to training. We are currently drafting the MOR and are likely to accept these recommendations.

2. We continue to place a high priority on accountability training for accounting officers and board members and in his minute to Perm Secs of 26 February 2007, Nigel Hamilton confirmed the policy that all new board appointees are expected, as a condition of their appointment, to undergo corporate governance training within six months of taking up their appointment, unless they have recently attended an appropriate training event.

3. Accountability training for board members is run by the Chief Executive’s Forum, along with DFP and the NIAO. The next session is scheduled for Monday 23 June at 13.00 in Malone House (details on the CEF website).

4. To date, we have 11 nominees for the course and if numbers were to exceed this significantly we would have to consider making a further session. Nevertheless this is an important issue, especially in the light of the Events Company, and I would encourage you to ensure that all board members of your arm’s length bodies attend accountability training if they haven’t already done so.

DAVID THOMSON

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