

Tenth Meeting of the Poverty and Inequality Commission

**Thursday 25 October 2018
10.30am – 13.30pm
COSLA, Edinburgh**

Commission Attendees

Douglas Hamilton, Chair
Naomi Eisenstadt, Deputy Chair
Kaliani Lyle, Deputy Chair
Hugh Foy
David Eiser
Katie Schmuecker
Caroline Kennedy

Apologies: Sally Witcher

Secretariat Attendees

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager
Katherine Myant, Analytical Manager
Michele Barr, Secretariat/Administrator

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies were given for Sally Witcher and the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government. The Cabinet Secretary has been invited to the next Commission meeting in December.

2. Advice

Advice on school holidays support

Douglas Hamilton introduced a paper setting out the Commission's draft recommendations on school holidays support. The Commission has been asked for advice by the Scottish Government on the role of local authorities, social enterprise and the third sector in providing after school care and holiday care and responding to school holiday food insecurity.

The Commission agreed that the advice should focus on a few key recommendations and should also include a summary of all recommendations. The Commission will submit its advice to the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government by the end of November 2018 and will publish it at the same time.

3. Scrutiny

Shifting the Curve update

Katherine Myant introduced an update paper which outlined how the Commission will scrutinise progress of the recommendations of “Shifting the Curve”, the report by the Independent Advisor on Poverty and Inequality, which was published in January 2016.

The Secretariat is currently carrying out a short review of evidence to update the findings in the original report. The Commission have requested a progress update from the Scottish Government on each of the recommendations which is expected by the end of October.

A draft report will be compiled for the next Commission meeting on the 13 December.

Budget scrutiny

Katherine Myant introduced a paper on the Commission’s approach to Budget scrutiny.

The three broad areas which the scrutiny of the Budget will focus on are:

- Previous Scottish Government commitments made around tackling poverty and inequality and inclusive growth;
- Tax and social security;
- Significant announcements in areas which impact on poverty and inequality.

The scrutiny report will highlight where it sees any gaps or deficiencies in the budget and outline what the Commission would like to see in next year’s budget. The Commission agreed to give some thought to the best way of involving people with lived experience in developing and testing the recommendations and to come back to the Secretariat on this.

David Eiser agreed to be part of the sub-group to advise on this work and it was suggested that Emma Congreve from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation be invited to join the sub-group.

4. Advocacy

Inclusive Growth

Katherine Myant gave a verbal update on the Inclusive Growth work and the various stages this work will go through.

At the last Commission meeting the Commissioners agreed the specification for a piece of research to examine what difference the adoption of 'inclusive growth' is making to policy design and delivery in Scotland. The research will also seek to draw lessons from other countries about how 'inclusive growth' can be operationalised in practice.

The specification was put out to tender. IPPR Scotland and Mark Diffley Consultancy and Research have now been commissioned to carry out the research. Work is under way and the contractors will present their findings at the Commission meeting in February 2019 with a report to follow.

The Commission requested that it should be made clear to the contractors that the reports produced should be clear and accessible. An update on how the research is progressing will be circulated for the 13 December meeting.

Housing Wealth

Katherine Hudson introduced a paper on Housing Wealth Inequalities, setting out a proposal for how the Commission should approach the work it had agreed to do on this priority and some of the questions it might wish to explore.

The Commissioners considered that the work, as currently framed, was very wide-ranging. Therefore, they agreed to focus on the first phase of the work, an evidence review, in order to provide a clear picture of the issue of housing wealth inequality in Scotland and the impact this has. Douglas Hamilton agreed to sit on the working group for this work and it was agreed that Douglas and the secretariat would arrange to speak to the Resolution Foundation, which has already carried out some analysis of wealth in Scotland.

Transport

Katherine Hudson introduced a paper setting out proposals for work on transport. The Commission agreed the proposal for the transport work but asked that the working group look at opportunities to broaden out the involvement of people with lived experience in the development of this work. Caroline Kennedy, Hugh Foy and Kaliani Lyle agreed to be members of the working group. It was suggested that the secretariat should make contact with Richard Crisp and Alasdair Rae who had completed research for JRF on transport-related barriers to employment.

5. Other updates

- Naomi Eisenstadt, Deputy Chair of the Commission, will be standing down from the Commission. Her last meeting will be in December.
- The chair for the new Statutory Commission will be appointed at the end of December 2018.
- Commissioners provided feedback on meetings and events attended.

6. Any other business

Date of the next meeting will be 13 December 2018.