

**Thirteenth Meeting of the Poverty and Inequality Commission**

**Wednesday 3 April 2019**

**10:30am – 1:30pm**

**COSLA, Edinburgh**

**Commission Attendees**

Douglas Hamilton, Chair

Kaliani Lyle, Deputy Chair

Katie Schmuecker

David Eiser

**Apologies**

Hugh Foy

Sally Witcher

Caroline Kennedy

**In attendance**

Bill Scott, Chair of the new Statutory Poverty and Inequality Commission

**Secretariat Attendees**

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Katherine Myant, Analytical Manager

Michele Barr, Secretariat/Administrator

Mary Njoki, Postgraduate Intern

**1. Welcome and apologies**

Douglas opened the meeting and introduced the Commissioners to Mary Njoki, a Postgraduate intern who has joined the Secretariat for 3 months. Apologies were given for Hugh Foy, Sally Witcher and Caroline Kennedy.

**2. Advocacy**

**Inclusive Growth Recommendations**

Katherine Myant provided an update on the IPPR Scotland and Mark Diffley Consultancy and Research report on Inclusive Growth in Scotland. The Commission discussed recommendations and areas they would like to adopt for the Commission’s recommendations for the report. The Secretariat will meet with the research team to discuss the report and recommendations. A revised copy of the report will be circulated around the Commissioners.

Prior to publication the Commission will meet with the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Fair Work and Economy to discuss the findings. The Commission will publish the report in May. The final report will be sent to Naomi Eisendstadt, previously Deputy Chair of the Commission.

**3. Scrutiny**

**Budget Scrutiny update**

Katherine Myant gave an update on the recent policy forum on how the Scottish Budget could be better used to tackle poverty. This was held on the 27th March and hosted by the Oxfam-UWS Partnership, alongside the Commission and The Poverty Alliance. The event brought together anti-poverty campaigners, those with lived experience, those involved in service delivery, and the participants of Oxfam’s Future Skills programme, to engage in participative workshops and explore how spending decisions could be made more inclusive and transparent.

A report which brings together all the aspects of the budget scrutiny will be published in May and the key findings from this event will be included in the report. Key priorities will be sent to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Fair Work and Economy.

**Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan progress report**

Katherine Hudson gave an overview of the draft paper for the Commission’s scrutiny of the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan Progress Report, and asked the Commission for initial comments . The Scottish Government is providing updates on actions in the Delivery Plan to the Commission by 19 April. The Secretariat will circulate the full set of Scottish Government updates and a revised paper around the Commission at the end of April..

**Poverty and Inequality statistics update**

Katherine Myant gave an update on the recent poverty and inequality statistics that were published in March. The Commission provided a quote from Douglas Hamilton to the media in response to the statistics and this was picked up by BBC News, Daily Record and Third Force News. The following week, the Times published an opinion piece by Douglas Hamilton responding to the statistics.

For future media coverage the Commission discussed advance planning around Commission media releases.

**4. Advice**

**School holidays**

Douglas Hamilton provided a brief update on the Commission’s school holidays advice. The Commission has received an initial letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government in response to the advice, and Douglas Hamilton has discussed the advice with Shirley Laing, Deputy Director of Social Justice and Regeneration at Scottish Government. The Scottish Government is planning to provide a more detailed response to the Commission’s recommendations shortly.

**5. Other Business**

**Annual Public Meeting**

The annual public meeting will take place on the 20 June at the Renfield Training Centre in Glasgow. The meeting will focus on key transport issues relating to poverty, housing wealth inequality in Scotland and will include an introduction to the new statutory Poverty and Inequality Commission.

**Update on the statutory Poverty and Inequality Commission**

Bill Scott provided an update on the statutory Commission’s recruitment of Commissioners. Applications closed on 1 April and sifting and interviews will take place at the end of April.

**Update paper**

Douglas Hamilton highlighted the update paper which covered updates on other aspects of the Commission’s work and meetings/events attended by Commissioners.