



Meeting of the Poverty and Inequality Commission

Thursday 20 February 2020
10:00am – 3pm
COSLA - Edinburgh

Commission Attendees

Bill Scott, Chair

Commissioners

Shona Stephen
Professor Morag Treanor
Yvonne Blake
Linda Bamford
Katie Schmuecker (dialling in)
Alex Cobham (dialling in)
Douglas White (dialling in – afternoon session)
Lindsay Graham (dialling in)

Secretariat Attendees

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

Scottish Government Attendees

Richard Foggo, Director of Population Health
Malcolm Summers, Head of Strategic Reform, Directorate of Population Health

Expert Attendees Afternoon session

Dave Moxham, Deputy General Secretary of the Scottish TUC, member of Just Transition Commission and board member of the Poverty Alliance
Satwat Rehman, Director of One Parent Families Scotland
Dominic Munro, Director for Fair Work, Employability and Skills, Scottish Government
Colin Borland, Director of Devolved Nations, Federation of Small Businesses

Apologies

Angela O'Hagan, Deputy Director of the Wise Centre for Economic Justice

1. Welcome and apologies

Bill Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Morning session – 10 pm – 12 pm

2. Update paper – finance/risk

The Risk Register and update on the budget paper were discussed by the Commission. Amendments were agreed to scores for some items on the risk register as further mitigating measures had been put in place.

3. Population Health Strategy – Richard Foggo, Director of Population Health, Scottish Government and Malcolm Summers, Head of Strategic Reform

Richard Foggo, Director of Population Health, Scottish Government gave a presentation on plans for the development of a future strategy for health and wellbeing. This was followed by a discussion with the Commission about how to ensure that poverty and inequality is at the heart of future strategy and how to engage all the community in a conversation about what is needed.

4. Council Tax – draft letter to ask SG for update on discussion on Council Tax

The Commission discussed the approach it would like to take around the on-going cross-party talks on council tax reform in Scotland. The Commission agreed to send a letter to all political parties in Scotland to ask them for an update, from their perspective, on how the talks were going and for details of their party's stance on council tax and the extent to which impacts on poverty, inequality and revenue raising are being considered.

5. Development of the Strategic Plan: Discussion on Impact

The Commission discussed the development of the Commission's strategic plan for 2020-22, which the Commission plans to publish in June 2020. The discussion particularly focused on how the Commission would define its impact.

6. AOB

- The next Commission meeting will be on the 26 March in Glasgow

Afternoon session: 1pm - 3pm

Discussion: What are the levers in Scotland to address in-work poverty? What are the barriers we need to remove and what are the blockages to doing this?

The Commission held an exploratory session with experts to discuss in-work poverty in order to help to develop the Commission's strategic plan and future work plan. This was one of a number of expert discussions the Commission has been having over the past few months.