

Covid-19 Response Working Group

Thursday 30 April 2020

10:00-11:00

Virtual Meeting by Zoom video communications

Attendees Commission

Bill Scott, Chair

Commissioners

Katie Schmuecker

Lindsay Graham

Shona Stephen

Morag Treanor

Secretariat Attendees

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Katherine Myant, Analytical Manager

Michele Barr, Secretariat/Administrator

External Attendees

Patrick Hogan, 3x1PR

1. Welcome and apologies

Bill Scott opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. Response from the Cabinet Secretary on the offer of support

Bill Scott updated the group on the response from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government on the working group's offer of support during the Covid-19 crisis. The Cabinet Secretary has offered to have a regular discussion with members of the Commission to discuss food insecurity and Scottish Government officials have offered to meet with members of the Commission to discuss whether any additional analysis or insight is needed on the provision of free school meals.

3. Reflections on Food work, including approach, response and follow up plans

The group agreed to take forward further work on food insecurity. John McKendrick, Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit will work with the Commission on a survey of community organisations to inform a second food insecurity briefing paper. The secretariat will set up a meeting between John McKendrick, Bill Scott and Lindsay Graham to start this work.

4. Other areas of focus

The working group agreed another key area they would focus on is the Scottish Welfare Fund. The secretariat will contact the Scottish Government sponsorship team to request a meeting with Scottish Welfare Fund officials and also set up a meeting with COSLA. The group discussed looking at the Scottish Carers Allowance and will take this issue back to the fuller Commission.

6. Comms and media overview

Patrick Hogan introduced a paper on the working group's Communication and Media work and set out how 3x1PR can help guide the working group in its thinking about how and when to deploy the media to further its objectives.

7. AOB

- Date of next meeting 14 May 2020
- Bill Scott has written to Scottish Government regarding the composition of the Economic Recovery Advisory Group.