



Meeting of the Poverty and Inequality Commission

Thursday 21 May 2020

10am – 12pm

Virtual Meeting by Zoom video communications

Commission Attendees

Bill Scott, Chair

Commissioners

Professor Morag Treanor

Yvonne Blake

Linda Bamford

Katie Schmuecker

Alex Cobham

Douglas White

Lindsay Graham

Apologies

Shona Stephen

Secretariat Attendees

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Katherine Myant, Analytical Manager

Michele Barr, Secretariat/Administrator

1. Welcome and apologies

Bill Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were given for Shona Stephen.

2. Seminar/Discussion: medium to long term impacts of COVID-19 on poverty and inequality.

The Commission invited a number of experts to talk about the implications of COVID-19 on poverty and inequality, in order to help the Commission start to develop its work to look at the long term impacts and the changes to policy and practice which will be needed.

Expert attendees who spoke were:

Mike Brewer, Resolution Foundation – an overview of the likely long term impacts on poverty and inequality and which groups are being hardest hit and for what reasons

Emma Congreve, Fraser of Allander Institute, University of Strathclyde – what the long term impacts might mean for Scotland and initial thoughts about the implications of devolution for what levers there are to respond in Scotland

Tony Wilson, Institute for Employment Studies - the labour market impacts, including the implications for in-work poverty and progression

Angela O'Hagan, Wise Centre for Economic Justice, Glasgow Caledonian University – the gender and other equalities implications of the crisis in the medium to long term

The seminar/discussion with experts will inform the Commission's Strategic Plan and will begin to sketch out what the medium to long term implications of the crisis is likely to be for poverty and inequality and help the Commission to think about where to focus the Commission's work.

6. AOB

- The next Commission meeting will be on the 4 June 2020.
- The Commission have been asked to submit their views to the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery on how the Commission think Scottish Government should set the course and direction of Scotland's economic recovery in response to the impact of Covid-19. Responses are required by the end of May.
- Members of the Commission are meeting the team within the Scottish Government Performance and Strategic Outcomes Directorate, who are working on the Scottish Government's COVID-19 strategic recovery response to discuss how the Commission's work might feed into and complement the Scottish Government's work.
- The Food Insecurity survey being carried out by Scottish Poverty Inequality Research Unit on behalf of the Commission closes at the end of May. Professor John McKendrick and Stephen Campbell (SPIRU) have been invited to the Covid-19 Response Working Group to discuss the findings of the survey.