

Meeting of the Poverty and Inequality Commission

Thursday 26 November 2020

10:00 – 12:00

Virtual Meeting by Zoom video communications

Attendees

Bill Scott, Chair

Professor Morag Treanor

Yvonne Blake

Linda Bamford

Alex Cobham

Douglas White

Shona Stephen

Katie Schmuecker

Secretariat attendees

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Michele Barr, Secretariat/Administrator

Apologies

Lindsay Graham

1. Welcome and apologies

Bill Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were given for Lindsay Graham.

2. Letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government about the Child Poverty progress report

Bill Scott provided an overview of the draft letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government in response to the Scottish Government child poverty progress report. Commissioners had agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary to follow-up on recommendations that were not fully answered or addressed. The Commissioners discussed the draft letter and provided amendments. Overall the Commissioners felt the letter covered the points they had raised and agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government to ask for a more detailed response.

3. Social Renewal Advisory Board report

Bill Scott provided a verbal update to Commissioners on progress with the Social Renewal Advisory Board final report to Scottish Government. Commissioners discussed responding to the recommendations when the final report is published.

4. Child Poverty Modelling grant – spending approval

Katherine Hudson provided an update of the child poverty modelling grant proposal received from Emma Congreve, Fraser of Allander Institute. The Commission agreed to approve the grant to Fraser of Allander to support the child poverty modelling work. Commissioners suggested amendments to the business case. The secretariat will prepare the grant letter.

5. Consultation on the revised Model Code of Conduct

Katherine Hudson provided an overview of the Scottish Government consultation on the Model Code of Conduct for members of devolved public bodies. The Scottish Government is revising the Model Code in recognition of the fact that a number of new developments have occurred since the Model Code was last reviewed in 2014. The Commissioners discussed the model code and provided views and concerns. The Commission agreed to provide a response to the consultation which closes in February 2021.

6. AOB

- The next Commission meeting will be on the 10 December 2020.
- Alex Cobham agreed to draft a submission for the Scottish Affairs Committee Welfare Policy in Scotland Inquiry and will circulate around Commissioners.
- Katherine Hudson provided an update on the research work with the Social Mobility Commission. This work has now been put on hold until April 2021.
- The Commission discussed using Microsoft Teams for future meetings, Commissioners will confirm to the secretariat whether they have access to Microsoft Teams.
- Katherine Hudson provided an update on the recruitment of the Analytical Manager.