

Meeting of the Poverty and Inequality Commission

Thursday 21 January 2021

10:00 – 12:00

Virtual Meeting by Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Bill Scott, Chair
Professor Morag Treanor
Lindsay Graham
Yvonne Blake
Linda Bamford
Alex Cobham
Katie Schmuecker

Secretariat attendees

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager
Michele Barr, Secretariat/Administrator

Apologies

Douglas White
Shona Stephen

External Attendees

Kirsty McNeill, Coalition of Racial Equality and Rights
Deirdre Henderson, Scottish Government Equalities and Impact Team
Gary Gunn, Scottish Government Equalities and Impact Team

1. Welcome and apologies

Bill Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were given for Shona Stephen and Douglas White. Bill Scott thanked Kirsty McNeill, Coalition of Racial Equality and Rights and Gary Gunn and Deirdre Henderson, Scottish Government Equalities Impacts Team for joining the meeting.

2. Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights - Ethnicity and Poverty in Scotland research report

Kirsty McNeill, CRER, gave a presentation to the Commission on CRER's new research report, *Ethnicity and Poverty in Scotland*. The report shows that even before the Covid-19 pandemic, minority ethnic people in Scotland were suffering disproportionate levels of poverty. The Commission discussed the research findings,

including the need for a better evidence base, and what action the Commission could advocate for in response to the report.

3. Discussion on impacts of EU Exit on people experiencing poverty and inequality

Gary Gunn and Deirdre Henderson, Scottish Government Equalities and Impact Team, provided an introduction to their work to the Commission. Their role is to work with policy colleagues in the SG to identify potential impacts of EU Exit on individuals who share protected characteristics, or experience socio economic disadvantage, and what measures could be put in place to help prevent or mitigate these impact. The team were looking to gather more evidence from lived experience and asked the Commission to share any evidence it was aware of, or details of stakeholders who might be able to provide evidence, in order for them to gather evidence of the impact of Brexit on socio economic groups. The secretariat will collate contact details and share with the Equalities and Impact team.

4. Update on Social Renewal Advisory Board report

Bill Scott provided a verbal update to the Commission on the Social Renewal Advisory Board report *If not now, when?* The report will be published on the 21 January.

5. Approach to child poverty progress scrutiny

Katherine Hudson provided an overview of the paper on the Commission's proposed approach to scrutiny of progress towards the child poverty targets. The Commission is required to provide its views to Scottish Government as to the progress they are making to meet the child poverty targets. Commissioners discussed the proposed approach set out in the paper and agreed the approach and to provide a response in early May to Scottish Government. The Commission also asked that experts by experience be involved in the scrutiny. The Scottish Government Child Poverty Progress Report 2020-21 is expected to be published in June 2021.

6. Social Security lines for Commission

Katherine Hudson provided an overview of the paper on social security lines for Commission. This paper draws on previous Commission discussions and reports to briefly set out the Commission positions on some of the key issues. This can be used by Commissioners if giving media interviews or evidence to committees. The Commissioners discussed the paper and identified other social security issues on which they would like to agree lines to take. Bill Scott will speak to researchers to provide an update on conditionality at a future Commission meeting and Linda Bamford will ask the lead from the Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland to speak at a future Commission meeting on Motability.

7. AOB

- The next Commission meeting will be on the 18 February.
- The secretariat to circulate details of the Poverty Framing Workshop to Commissioners to invite other organisations to the workshop on the 4 February.
- Katherine Hudson provided an update to Commissioners on the progress of the two vacant posts in the Commission for the role of Senior Participation Officer and Analytical Manager.
- Katherine Hudson updated Commissioners on the FOI request the Commission had received.