

## **Meeting of the Poverty and Inequality Commission**

**Thursday 29 April 2021**

**14:00 – 16:00**

**Virtual Meeting by Microsoft Teams**

### **Attendees**

Bill Scott, Chair

Professor Morag Treanor

Lindsay Graham

Linda Bamford

Alex Cobham

Katie Schmuecker

Douglas White

Shona Stephen

### **Secretariat attendees**

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Rory Morrison, Analytical Manager

Michele Barr, Secretariat/Administrator

### **Apologies**

Yvonne Blake

## **1. Welcome and apologies**

Bill Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were given for Yvonne Blake.

## **2. Child Poverty Scrutiny 2020-21**

Katherine Hudson provided an update on the Child Poverty Scrutiny report 2020-21. The Commission had previously agreed the approach and structure for its child poverty scrutiny report and the secretariat had prepared a draft scrutiny report for the Commissioners to consider. The Commissioners discussed the draft report and provided comments and agreed the report should include key recommendations. A revised draft and an executive summary will be circulated to Commissioners for comments by email. The final draft will be signed off by 13 May and provided to the Scottish Government. Commissioners discussed communications around the Child Poverty Scrutiny report, which will be published on the same date as the Scottish Government publishes its progress report. The secretariat will consider communications activity with 3x1 and come back to the commission with options.

### **3. Annual Scrutiny Report – next steps**

Rory Morrison provided the Commissioners with an update on the Annual Scrutiny Report. The Commission had agreed in October 2019 to produce an “annual scrutiny report”, which was originally planned for autumn 2020 but subsequently delayed due to COVID-19. The Commissioners discussed the possible recommencement of the work. Commissioners provided views on the report to the secretariat; it was agreed not to have a separate advisory group and that experts by experience to be more closely involved in the report. Commissioners will send to the secretariat stakeholder’s organisations to involve in the scrutiny work. Morag Treanor volunteered to work with the secretariat on the report. The potential value of delaying the report further in order to better engage with experts by experience was discussed. The secretariat will set out options around this, to be discussed at the Commission meeting on the 13 May.

### **4. Briefing New Ministers**

Katherine Hudson provided an overview of the paper on briefing for new Scottish Government Ministers after the election. Commissioners provided views on what should be included in the briefing. When the new government is formed after the Scottish Parliament elections the Commission will invite the new Cabinet Secretary to a future Commission meeting.

### **5. Unpaid carers working group**

Bill Scott provided an update on the unpaid carers working group. Bill has contacted Bruce Adamson, Children and Young People's Commissioner to investigate the possibility of writing a joint letter to ministers to ask them to provide an update on the progress with the new payment for people caring for more than one disabled child and to ask about timescales in the response.

Katherine Hudson will contact the Scottish Government Carers Policy lead to inform them that the Commission will write to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security about the earnings limit for carer’s allowance.

### **6. Budget/risk register/work programme**

The Commissioners discussed the budget, risk register and work plan. Commissioners agreed updates to the risk register. Linda Bamford suggested adding a potential roundtable with unpaid carers to the work programme.

### **7. AOB**

- The next Commission meeting will be on the 13 May.

- Rory Morrison updated Commissioners on the research work to be carried out jointly by the UK Social Mobility Commission and the Poverty and Inequality Commission. This had been put on hold due to resource limitations but the Social Mobility Commission are still keen to carry out the research and we expect this work to recommence.
- Bill Scott provided an update on the follow up meeting he had with Linda Sommerville, Deputy Secretary, Scottish Trade Union Congress. Bill Scott suggested a follow up meetings with the STUC Black Workers Committee and the Disabled Workers Committee, and noted that it would be good to include people in low paid, insecure work in the Commission's experts by experience panel.