



Meeting of the Poverty and Inequality Commission

Thursday 10 June 2021

10:00 – 12:30

Virtual Meeting by Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Bill Scott, Chair
Linda Bamford
Katie Schmuecker
Yvonne Blake
Shona Stephen

Secretariat attendees

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager
Rory Morrison, Analytical Manager
Orlaith McAree, Senior Participation Officer
Michele Barr, Secretariat/Administrator

Apologies

Professor Morag Treanor
Lindsay Graham
Alex Cobham
Douglas White

External attendees

Ann McKenzie, Unit Head - Tackling Child Poverty Unit, Scottish Government
Spencer Thompson, Economic Adviser, Scottish Government
Dawn Abell, Head of Reserved and Working Age Benefits Unit, Scottish Government
Ian Davidson, Head of Social Security Policy, Scottish Government
Martin Davidson, Income Tax Team Leader, Scottish Government
Emma Congreve, Fraser of Allander Institute, University of Strathclyde
Chris Birt, Deputy Director - Scotland, Joseph Rowntree Foundation Scotland.

1. Welcome and apologies

Bill Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies were given for Morag Treanor, Lindsay Graham, Douglas White and Alex Cobham.

10:00-12:00

2. Discussion: The role of Scottish social security in meeting the child poverty targets (10:00-12:00)

To inform its child poverty delivery advice to the Scottish Government, the Commission and external attendees discussed how Scottish social security can be best used to reduce child poverty.

External attendees left the meeting.

12:00-12:30

3. Commission business as usual

Annual Report 2020-21

The Commission's Framework Document sets out that the Commission is required to produce an annual report of its activities, together with its budget expenditure, within three months of the end of each financial year. Katherine Hudson gave an update on the Commission's draft Annual Report which had been circulated for comment. The Annual Report was approved by the Commission, subject to some minor amendments. The report will be sent to the Scottish Government Sponsorship Team for review and then shared with the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government ahead of publication. It will be published on the Commission's website by the end of June.

Budget/Risk Register/Work Programme

The Commissioners discussed the budget/risk register and work programme. Commissioners provided comments to be updated on the risk register.

Katherine Hudson updated the Commission on the publication of the Fraser of Allander Institute child poverty modelling report, which will be published shortly. Fraser of Allander Institute will publish a blog alongside the report and the Commission will do an accompany blog on its website.

4. AOB

- The next Commission meeting will be on the 5 August.
- Bill Scott provided an update to Commission on the Scottish Minimum Income Guarantee Steering Group which he has been invited to join.
- Rory Morrison updated the commissioners on the progress of the scrutiny report, Morag Treanor has previously volunteered to work with the secretariat on the report and the secretariat asked for additional volunteers.