

**Meeting of the Poverty and Inequality Commission**

**Thursday 30 September 2021**

**10:00 – 12:30**

**Virtual Meeting by Microsoft Teams**

**Commission attendees**

Bill Scott, Chair

Professor Morag Treanor

Yvonne Blake

Douglas White

Linda Bamford

Shona Stephen

Alex Cobham

Katie Schmuecker

**External attendees**

Alison Watson Director, Shelter Scotland

John Blackwood Chief Executive, Scottish Association of Landlords

Deborah Hay Scotland Policy and Partnership Manager, JRF

Laura Caven Policy Manager – Communities, COSLA

Eileen McMullan Policy Lead, SFHA

Derek McGowan Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment, Aberdeen City Council

Claire McCrum Child Poverty Team Leader, Scottish Government

Colin MacBean Deputy Director – More Homes, Scottish Government

**Secretariat attendees**

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Rory Morrison, Analytical Manager

Orlaith McAree, Senior Participation Officer

**Apologies**

Lindsay Graham Commissioner

Catriona MacKean Deputy Director – Better Homes, Scottish Government

Spencer Thompson Economic Adviser, Scottish Government

1. **Welcome and apologies**

Bill Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Apologies were given for Lindsay Graham, Catriona MacKean and Spencer Thompson.

1. **Discussion: Advice to Scottish Government on the next Child Poverty Delivery Plan. What contribution can housing make towards meeting the child poverty targets? (10:00-11:15)**

The Commission and external attendees discussed what contribution action on housing should make to reaching the child poverty targets. This discussion will inform the Commission’s advice to the Scottish Government on the next Child Poverty Delivery Plan.

**External attendees left the meeting.**

1. **Annual Scrutiny Report**

Rory Morrison gave an overview of progress in developing the Commission’s annual scrutiny report. The Commission discussed some additional issues that could be explored in the report and ways of presenting the report that would illustrate the connections between different policies and draw out more strongly the voices of those with lived experience. The Commission agreed that it would be appropriate to develop two or three over-arching observations as conclusions to the report, rather than providing detailed recommendations. It was noted that the additional work would require more time and that publication should be planned for later in November.

1. **Request for feedback on COVID-19 Public Inquiry aims and principles**

The Commission considered a request for feedback on the aims and principles of the COVID-19 Inquiry. The Commission agreed that it would like to see the aims of the inquiry include explicit reference to the impact of the pandemic on poverty and inequality. It was agreed that the secretariat should provide feedback to the Inquiry set up team on a number of areas, including looking at: the impact on those with protected characteristics and those experiencing existing inequality; learning lessons from the pandemic response for other major societal issues such as poverty; and ensuring the accessibility of the Inquiry.

1. **Budget/Risk Register/Work Programme**

The Commission considered the Commission budget, risk register and work programme.

1. **AOB**
* The next Commission meeting will be on 28 October 2021.