

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

**Thursday 17 February 2022**

**10:00 – 12:00**

**Virtual Meeting by Microsoft Teams**

### **Commission attendees**

Bill Scott, Chair

Professor Morag Treanor

Lindsay Graham

Yvonne Blake

Linda Bamford

Shona Stephen

Alex Cobham

Katie Schmuecker

### **Secretariat attendees**

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Rory Morrison, Analytical Manager

Orlaith McAree, Senior Participation Officer

Michele Barr, Secretariat/Administrator

### **Apologies**

Douglas White

## **1. Welcome and apologies**

Bill Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were given for Douglas White.

## **2. Commission work programme: future priorities**

Katherine Hudson presented a paper on the Commission's work programme and future priorities. Commissioners were asked to consider the future priorities and agreed to the suggested issues and the proposed approaches. Alex Cobham will circulate a note on tax questions and will lead on a possible piece of scoping work and will provide an overview of tax at a future Commission meeting.

Commissioners agreed they wanted to be more visible and that they wanted to commit time to connecting with organisations and groups in Scotland to gather evidence about the impact of the rising cost of living and to involve the experts by experience panel with visits. Visits to organisations and groups will be from April 2022 to March 2023.

### **3. Model Code of Conduct**

Michele Barr provided an update on the Scottish Governments revised Model Code of Conduct for members of devolved public body. The Commission agreed to adopt the new revised Model Code of Conduct. The next steps are that the code will be formally approved by Scottish Government.

### **4. Approach to next child poverty scrutiny report**

Katherine Hudson provided an update on the proposed approach to the next child poverty scrutiny report. The Commission will continue to prepare a report scrutinising progress towards the child poverty targets in April/May each year. In addition to the scrutiny report the Commission has been working on a wider scrutiny report looking at progress in Scotland in tackling poverty and inequality as a whole and this will be published in March. The Commission will consider whether the scrutiny report will be an annual activity.

### **5. Resource Spending Review consultation**

Katherine Hudson provided an overview of the resource spending review. Commissioners provided views on the main issues to be covered in the consultation response. The resource spending review is due to be published in May and the Commission will provide a response by the deadline at the end of March.

### **6. AOB**

- Date of next Commission meeting is the 17 March
- Orlaith McAree updated Commissioners on the experts by experience panel and connecting the panel to other groups.
- Bill Scott provided an update on the letter which the Commission has sent to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy.
- Bill Scott provided an update on the meeting he had with the Deputy Director of Social Justice.
- Katherine Hudson provided an update on the annual public meeting which is on the 15 March.
- Morag Treanor and Lindsay Graham to be invited to the next PIC/Secretariat meeting.