



Poverty and Inequality Commission Annual Report 2021-2022

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Foreword from Chair



It was always clear that 2021-2022 would be a critical year for action on child poverty in Scotland. It marked the final year of the Scottish Government's first Child Poverty Delivery Plan and the publication of the plan for the next four years. With interim child poverty targets due to be met by the end of 2023-2024 this would be an important time to take stock of the progress made so far and what more would be needed in order for Scotland to meet its child poverty targets.

This need to reflect and refocus on meeting the child targets has been all the more important because it has come at a time of continued uncertainty about the impact of COVID-19 on poverty and inequality and, towards the end of the year, a rapidly developing cost of living crisis.

Over the past year the Poverty and Inequality Commission has been focused on scrutinising the progress that has been made towards meeting the child poverty targets and preparing its advice to Scottish Government on what should be included in the next Child Poverty Delivery Plan. Early in the reporting year, in our scrutiny report, we concluded that the Scottish Government was going to miss the interim and final targets by a long way, unless it delivered action at a much greater scale and pace, and with significantly higher levels of investment.

Our advice went on to make a number of recommendations for actions that should be included in the Delivery Plan, including a further increase to the Scottish Child Payment and more action to support employment. More will be needed in order to meet the child poverty targets, but we were pleased to see some of our recommendations reflected in the Delivery Plan. Over the coming year we will be looking at what progress is made in implementing these actions.

Alongside our child poverty advice, a significant focus for the Commission over the past year has been setting up our Experts by Experience Panel. Establishing and working with the Panel has been part of making sure that we live our commitment to amplify the voices of those with lived experience of poverty.

There is a lot for us all to learn as we move towards embedding a co-production approach, but I am proud of the work that the Commission and Panel have done together so far. We worked in partnership on our child poverty advice, sharing our experiences, ideas and expertise and coming up with recommendations together. Some of our Panel members then met with the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government to discuss the recommendations.

I am looking forward to continuing to work in partnership with the Panel over the coming year, and to the panel having an increasing role in shaping the Commission's work and priorities.

As we move into a new reporting year, the growing cost of living crisis is of grave concern to the Commission. Many, many families will face a harsh winter and bleak future as they are pulled under by rapidly increasing fuel, food and other costs. Action will be needed at all levels – from the UK and Scottish Governments down to local authorities and community groups - to support households to make it through the immediate crisis, and this will be one of the key issues that the Commission and Panel will be working on in the coming year.

Once again throughout the year we have worked with many individuals and organisations who have contributed to the Commission's work, generously sharing their knowledge, experience, insight, and challenge. I would like to thank everyone who has supported the Commission in this way and we look forward to continuing to work with all our partners to eradicate poverty and inequality in Scotland.

Bill Scott
Chair, Poverty and Inequality Commission

1. About us

The Poverty and Inequality Commission was established on 1 July 2019. It is an advisory non-departmental public body which provides independent advice and scrutiny to Scottish Ministers on poverty and inequality.

The Commission's role is to:

- Advise Scottish Ministers on any matter relating to poverty or inequality in Scotland, including the impact of policies and the use of resources in reducing poverty and inequality
- Monitor progress in reducing poverty and inequality in Scotland
- Promote the reduction of poverty and inequality in Scotland

We sometimes call these three different types of work that we do advice, scrutiny and advocacy.

The Commission has specific responsibilities in relation to child poverty where it:

- Provides advice to Ministers on Child Poverty Delivery Plans
- Comments on annual progress towards the targets and what further progress is needed to meet the targets.

The Commission responds to requests for advice from Scottish Ministers, but also develops its own work programme to scrutinise progress and to promote the importance of particular issues in reducing poverty and inequality.

In order to do its work the Commission can gather evidence, carry out research, and publish reports.

2. Our Vision, Mission and Principles

Our Vision

The Commission wants to see a Scotland where no-one lives in poverty, or is diminished by inequality, and everyone is able to live with dignity and thrive.

Our Mission

We will work to strengthen policy, legislation, and practice to reduce poverty and inequality in Scotland, by engaging with experts by experience, advising Scottish Ministers, scrutinising progress, and advocating for action.

Our Principles

The following principles set out how we will work as a Commission. We will be:

Courageous and honest

- Say what is right, not what is easy
- Drive progress and change by providing constructive challenge

Evidence-based

- Use evidence, from statistics and from people's testimony, to inform, scrutinise and monitor progress

Listening and accessible

- Be visible, accessible and available
- Listen to those who wish to be heard, especially those with expertise and direct lived experience of poverty and inequality

Promoting dignity and respect

- Tackle the stigma and discrimination associated with poverty

Vocal

- Speak up for and amplify the voices of people who are not often heard

Person-centred

- Keep people, their lives, their potential, and their individuality at the centre of what we do

3. Our Strategic Priorities

In our Strategic Plan¹ we have identified one overarching priority and four strategic priorities that are guiding the Commission’s work in the period up to the end of March 2023. Each of these priorities is inter-related. Our overarching priority is to amplify the voices of experts by experience – people with lived experience of poverty and inequality – and this should be seen as central to all the strategic priorities.



¹ [Poverty and Inequality Commission Strategic Plan 2020-2023](#)

4. Our work between April 2021 and March 2022

Our Annual Report looks back at the work the Commission has carried out in the last 12 months. Our priority areas of work over the last year have been advising the Scottish Government on what should be included in its 2022-2026 Child Poverty Delivery Plan and establishing a Panel of Experts by Experience to work with the Commission to ensure that lived experience shapes the Commission's work and recommendations.

The Annual Report sets out the Poverty and Inequality Commission's work and how it aligns with the Commission's strategic priorities.

Overarching priority:

Amplify the voices of experts by experience to make sure they are part of identifying issues, developing and designing solutions, and scrutinising progress.

Amplifying the voices of experts by experience is an overarching priority for the Commission that threads through all our work. In 2021-2022 the Commission has built on its previous work with experts by experience by establishing an experts by experience panel, and working towards a co-production approach in its work.

Rapid review of the academic literature on co-production involving experts with experience of poverty

In May 2021 the Commission [published a rapid review of the academic literature](#) on co-production involving experts by experience, carried out by the Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit (SPIRU) at Glasgow Caledonian University. It reports on how people with lived experience of poverty are involved in policy and service development and delivery. The evidence from this and other sources informed the creation of the Commission's [guidance on involving experts by experience](#).

Involving Experts by Experience Panel

We have established a panel of Experts by Experience to work with the Commission to ensure that lived experience shapes and informs our work and recommendations. The Panel is made up of 19 people from different parts of Scotland with diverse experiences and characteristics.

We used the guidance that was co-produced for us by experts by experience and the Poverty Alliance to help us develop our approach and the Panel met for the first time in August 2021. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation provided funding in 2020-2021 to support this work.

The Panel's Role

- To tell the Commission about issues relating to poverty and inequality that they feel are important; the Commission can also bring important issues to the Panel.
- To inform and influence the Commission's decisions and activities using their knowledge and expertise as people with lived experience of poverty and inequality.
- To help make sure that the experiences of people and communities are effectively communicated and understood by Commissioners, with the support of the Secretariat.

The first area the Panel worked on was the Commission's advice to Scottish Government on the Child Poverty Delivery Plan. The Panel explored the issues that families face and discussed potential solutions that Scottish Government could implement. The Panel and the Commission then worked jointly to bring together their expertise and knowledge to develop recommendations for the Scottish Government. Members of the panel, along with the Commission Chair, met with the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government to talk about the Commission's advice.

Since then the Panel has contributed to the Commission's response to the Scottish Government's Low Income Winter Heating Assistance consultation, and discussed the Scottish Government's draft Rented Sector Strategy. Panel members gave presentations and participated in Q&A at the Commission's public meeting in March 2022.

We asked members of our Panel some questions about their experiences of being Panel members so far. Some of their responses are included in section 5 of this annual report.

Strategic Priority 1:

Ensure that reducing poverty and inequality is central to policy making and delivery in Scotland.

During 2021-2022 the Commission's major policy focus has been on child poverty. It has carried out scrutiny of progress so far towards meeting the child poverty targets and provided advice to Scottish Government on the next Child Poverty Delivery Plan. The Commission has also contributed to a number of consultations from other policy areas to try to ensure that reducing poverty and inequality is a priority across Scottish Government.

Poverty and Inequality Commission Child Poverty Scrutiny Report 2020-21 – Report to Scottish Government

The Commission published its [Child Poverty Scrutiny Report 2020-21](#) in June 2021. This looked back at the progress that had been made in reducing child poverty during 2020-21, and acknowledged the significant impact of COVID-19 on efforts to tackle child poverty. As part of our scrutiny the Commission was keen to hear from parents about their views on progress. We worked with Aberlour, Contact, Fife Gingerbread, and Amina – Muslim Women's Resource Centre [to carry out workshops with parents](#) to explore these issues. These workshops included single parents, black and minority ethnic parents, parents with disabled children and parents with learning disabilities. The majority of the parents who took part were women. We are very grateful to all the parents who took part and the organisations that supported them.

We concluded that unless very significant further action was taken immediately, the Scottish Government was going to miss the interim and final targets by a long way, leaving children and families locked into poverty. We said that the targets could be met, but that the Scottish Government had to deliver action at a much greater scale and pace, and with significantly higher levels of investment, if it was to do so.

Advice on the Scottish Government Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-26

The Commission spent a substantial part of 2021-2022 developing its advice for the Scottish Government on what should be included in the 2022-2026 Child Poverty Delivery Plan. In order to inform our advice we held a number of expert discussions involving representatives from third sector and community organisations, think tanks, academics, experts by experience, and Scottish Government and local government officials. These discussions were extremely helpful in exploring the issues and developing our thinking and we are very grateful to everyone who participated.

We worked with our Experts by Experience Panel to develop our child poverty advice, bringing together the expertise and knowledge of both the Commission and the Panel to develop the recommendations in the advice.

The Commission [published the advice to the Scottish Government in January 2022](#). The report said that Scottish Government would have to use all levers available to it and increase the pace and scale of action to end child poverty. It made recommendations for actions that should be included in the Delivery Plan, including a further increase to the Scottish Child Payment and more action to support employment.

The Scottish Government published its 2022 to 2026 Delivery Plan, [Best Start, Bright Futures](#) in March 2022. It included new policy commitments that reflected measures the Commission recommended in its advice, most notably a commitment to further increase the Scottish Child Payment to £25 per week by the end of 2022, and a package of further measures on employability backed by a meaningful level of investment. Government modelling published alongside the Delivery Plan suggests the cumulative effect of the measures included the plan mean the relatively child poverty interim targets can be met, though the absolute child poverty interim targets are less likely to be.

Consultation responses

Over the course of 2021-2022 the Commission and Experts by Experience Panel also contributed to a number of Scottish Government consultations. These included:

- [Fairer Scotland Duty Revised Guidance](#)
- [Low Income Winter Heating Assistance consultation](#)
- [The Resource Spending Review Framework](#)

Strategic Priority 2:

Increase the impact of policies to reduce poverty and inequality by promoting better use of evidence in developing policies and measuring impact.

Over the last year the Commission has continued to emphasise the importance of making better use of evidence in developing policies and measuring impact. The Commission provided comments to Scottish Government on the Child Poverty Measurement Framework. We made a number of recommendations in its Child Poverty advice in relation to evidence and impact, recommending that the Scottish Government needed to link actions to measured impact more clearly and make better use of evidence, including evidence from experts by experience, in designing, monitoring and evaluating policies and actions.

The 2022 to 2026 Scottish Government Child Poverty Delivery Plan included the publication of a cumulative impact assessment, reflecting something that the Commission had recommended. It also showed greater recognition of the importance of listening to evidence from people with lived experience of poverty.

The Commission also funded some research in order to inform the evidence base about poverty and inequality in Scotland. This research is described below.

Intersectionality: Revealing the realities of poverty and inequality in Scotland

The Commission commissioned IPPR Scotland to [carry out a review of intersecting inequalities in Scotland](#) to inform the work of the Commission and others as Scotland enters a crucial decade in reducing poverty and inequality.

The research was published in May 2021 and shows how experience of poverty cannot be disentangled from other inequalities that shape society in Scotland. The report reviews existing research and policy in Scotland as it relates to intersectionality and inequalities, and includes the testimony of people in Scotland who have direct experience of intersecting inequalities. It makes recommendations for how the Commission should take an intersectional approach in its work.

We plan to continue to develop this work, and in 2022-23 the Commission will work with the Experts by Experience Panel to develop a strategy to embed intersectional analysis across its work.

Modelling the impact of measures to reduce child poverty in Scotland

The Commission provided grant funding to the Fraser of Allander Institute, in partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University, to develop modelling tools in order to build the evidence base on the effect of a series of social security, employment and housing policies on child poverty.

The initial work using the modelling tools [was published in June 2021](#) and looked at some simplified policy scenarios in order to shine a light on the scale of the challenge, as well as some of the potential trade-offs in using different policy levers to make progress towards meeting the child poverty targets. The Commission used this modelling work to inform its advice to Scottish Government on the 2022-2026 Child Poverty Delivery Plan.

Good Jobs in Scotland

Learning and Work Institute was commissioned to review the evidence and provide advice and recommendations on how the Scottish Government can support the creation of more 'good jobs' in Scotland that reduce child poverty. This work was carried out to inform the [Commission's advice](#) to the Scottish Government for its next Child Poverty Delivery Plan. Employment should be a route out of poverty, but many people in work are still in poverty due to low pay, insufficient hours and insecure work. The Scottish Government has a focus on fair work and employability, but this cannot succeed without an attendant focus on ensuring more good jobs are created in Scotland. The [report was published in January 2022](#).

Strategic Priority 3:

Advocate for a response to COVID-19 that addresses the structural causes of poverty and inequality.

During the past year the Commission has continued to advocate for action that addresses the structural causes of poverty and inequality. In our child poverty advice, for example, we made recommendations relating to action on reducing the disability employment gap, driving up pay in the care and childcare sectors, which have a predominantly female workforce, and action on fair work. The Commission has continued to make the case for relevant recommendations arising from the [Social Renewal Advisory Board](#) in its work during 2021-22 to be implemented, to help ensure the detailed work that went into these ideas is not lost as Scotland progresses into a different stage of the pandemic.

COVID-19 Public Inquiry aims and principles

The Commission provided the Scottish Government with [its views on the aims and principles for the COVID-19 Public Inquiry](#). We emphasised that the aims of the inquiry should include explicit reference to the impact of the pandemic on poverty and inequality and warned that dividing harms into societal and economic impacts risked ignoring the way that these factors interact and combine to exacerbate poverty and inequality. The Commission recommended that the Inquiry should look at which groups have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, particularly those with protected characteristics and those experiencing existing inequality. We said that the Inquiry should look at how the actions taken so far have aligned with the needs of these groups, and how existing and emerging policies can now be aligned to ensure that the long term impact is not to deepen these inequalities.

Resource Spending Review Framework consultation

The Commission [responded to the Scottish Government's Resource Spending Review Framework consultation](#), making the case for taking a more joined up approach between the Scottish Government's priorities of a stronger, fairer, greener Scotland, and addressing child poverty and climate change. We said that these priorities should not be seen in isolation from each other and that meeting the child poverty targets would require investment that drives Fair Work, delivers the affordable transport and childcare infrastructure needed, and addresses occupational segregation, and the barriers to work and discrimination faced by many disabled people, women and people from minority ethnic groups.

Participation in Scottish Government Minimum Income Guarantee Steering Group

The Commission Chair has represented the Commission on the Scottish Government's Minimum Income Guarantee Steering Group during 2021-2022. The Steering Group aims to define a minimum income guarantee for Scotland, and to identify and prioritise action for further development and testing during the course of

this Parliament to support the delivery of a minimum income guarantee within current devolved powers.

Strategic Priority 4:

Establish the Commission as an authoritative voice, and support a conversation that promotes dignity, challenges stigma, encourages action, and changes the narrative about poverty and inequality in Scotland.

In 2021-2022 the Commission undertook a range of activity to highlight issues of poverty and inequality and encourage discussion about how to address poverty and inequality in Scotland. This included speaking at events and meetings, giving evidence to the Scottish Parliament, engaging with the media and holding a public meeting.

Commission online Annual Public Meeting 2022

The Commission held its first online Public Meeting in 2022 after holding in-person events before the pandemic. The event was for people who were interested in finding out more about the work of the Poverty and Inequality Commission and hearing from our Commissioners and lived experience panel members. We particularly encouraged people who were living on a low income to attend.

At the public meeting we wanted to share our child poverty advice, highlight some examples of good work that is happening to address poverty and let people hear directly from our Experts by Experience Panel.

Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy, Kate Forbes, provided the keynote speech for the event. Attendees also heard from some of our Commissioners, members of our Experts by Experience Panel, Deputy Director for Social Justice & Regeneration at the Scottish Government, Julie Humphreys, and from Maximise which is a partnership between the Community Help and Advice Initiative and Children 1st supported by The City of Edinburgh Council, the Edinburgh Health & Social Care Partnership and the Capital City Partnership.

Evidence to Scottish Parliament Social Justice and Social Security Committee

The Commission was invited to give evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Social Justice and Social Security as part of its pre-budget scrutiny. The Commission Chair, Bill Scott, [attended the session](#) which focused on meeting the interim child poverty targets.

Events, meetings and media activity

Over the last year members of the Commission have met with a number of Scottish Government Ministers, including the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy, and the Minister for Just Transition, Employment and Fair Work, to discuss poverty and inequality issues. Our Commissioners have spoken at a range of events and in the media, and our child poverty advice was covered by a number of media outlets

including *The Scotsman*, *The Times*, *The Herald*, *The Courier*, *The Daily Record*, *STV* and *Good Morning Scotland*.

Correspondence

The Commission continues to write to Scottish and UK Government Ministers to raise issues relating to poverty and inequality. In June 2021 the Commission [wrote to the UK Government Home Secretary](#), Priti Patel MP, about the Aspen debit card provided to people seeking asylum, after an apparently mishandled transfer between providers of the card left people seeking asylum with no means to feed or provide for themselves or their families, for a prolonged period.

In July 2021 the Commission [wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer](#) to urge the UK Government not to go ahead with its £20 cut to Universal Credit. In the same month the Commission [sent a joint letter with the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland](#), Bruce Adamson, to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government, to ask for an update on progress in delivering the Scottish Government's commitment to increase Carer's Allowance for people looking after more than one disabled child.

Following the UK Government's cost of living announcements in February 2022 the Commission [wrote to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy](#) calling for the Scottish Government to use the resulting £290 million consequential to support those most likely to be in the greatest poverty.

5. What our Panel members told us about their experiences this year

'At the Poverty and Inequality Commission we work daily by a set of principles. One of those principles which I believe it to be the most important is to *'Amplify the voices of experts by experience to make sure they are part of identifying issues, developing and designing solutions, and scrutinising progress.'* It was with this in mind that a year ago we recruited our 'experts by experience' Panel. Since then we have been on a learning journey together with these amazing people from all over Scotland who have direct lived experience of living in poverty. They have been crucial to all our advice to Scottish government offering us insight, pragmatic ideas, attended meetings and constructively challenged our thinking. Their support to our work is invaluable.'

Lindsay Graham, Co-Deputy Chair of the Commission

We asked our Experts by Experience Panel members to share with us how they have found participation in the Panel so far, and what benefits and challenges they have found in being part of the Panel and working with the Commission to influence policy on poverty and inequality.

We will publish a longer summary of the responses we have received from Panel members on our website.

On being a member of the Commission's Panel

We asked Panel members how they have found being a member of the Panel so far.

It's very been educational but very rewarding as well. I've learnt a lot both in to terms of how I look at poverty but also about how poverty affects others who are in very different circumstances.

Hussein, Panel member

I find it fascinating. It's really valuable to have a group of lots of people with some shared experiences of poverty but also some very different experiences. It's really helpful to have the contact with the Panel, but also the Commission and the government.

Kim, Panel member

I like gaining experience from others and also utilizing my experience.

Patricia, Panel member

I have learned a lot and have felt heard and understood. I have felt empowered to use my voice to stand united with the other panel members and demand change and influence how it can be implemented effectively.

A, Panel member

On the importance of involving experts by experience in diagnosing problems and identifying solutions

We asked Panel members why they thought involving experts by experience is important in the kind of work the Commission does.

Governments rarely make decisions that reflect the voices of those that will be affected by those decisions. If we want to end poverty and inequality we must listen to the people who are experiencing it.

B, Panel member

People who have lived experience are the experts. They have an understanding of how policy works in a very real way, not just in theory or on paper, but how it feels to be on the end of it. It doesn't just improve things for the group of people involved, but also for others in Scotland.

Kim, Panel member

In life, there is saying: "it is those that wear the shoe that know where it pinches" ... It is only those who have undergone poverty, who know what it is to lack food or not to have good clothes or shoes. These are the kinds of people who know what needs to be done.

C, Panel member

On things that could be improved

We asked Panel members if they found anything about their involvement in the panel to be particularly challenging.

I would love more feedback from Commissioners on if what we are doing is helping at all levels. It would be better too if we had more frequent meetings as two hours per month is not enough I feel.

Darren, Panel member

Some of the issues that we've been dealing with have been really big issues. For example child poverty. Not having children myself, I can put myself in people's shoes, but can never truly understand what that's like. Also, I wish we had more time. These are such big issues.

Hussein, Panel member

It can be hard to "force" people to be represented on a Panel like this. Some people live in denial, they don't want to recognise that they live in poverty, and some people don't want to say "this is what I am going through". It is not easy to talk to strangers that you don't even know, but over time people do open up.

C, Panel member

On the benefits of being involved in the Panel

We asked Panel members if there was anything they particularly enjoyed about being a member of the Commission's Panel.

On a personal level, learning more about what it's like in other peoples shoes. Getting to be with others who understand you is a good thing too.

Darren, Panel member

I enjoyed having my own preconceptions of poverty challenged. It helped me grow as a person. I also enjoyed learning about intersectionality. I understand now much better why certain groups are more likely to live in poverty or face inequality.

B, Panel member

Having volunteered within the volunteer sector I find that I have retained knowledge and can share this, also I am newly in a wheelchair and I enjoy gaining knowledge of my new job basically relearning new skills for a disabled person.

Patricia, Panel member

A thing I have enjoyed is when somebody raises a point that they are struggling with, you see people suggest different information to help them. You see panel members writing in the chat to suggest responses to their question. Panel members have empathy, not just sympathy.

C, Panel member

I have most enjoyed getting to know the other panel members, hearing their stories and standing with united voice to encourage and implement effective change. I really enjoyed speaking at the AGM. I also found the public speaking training extremely beneficial.

A, Panel member

6. Financial Summary

The Poverty and Inequality Commission was allocated a budget of £317,296 from Scottish Government for 2021-2022. The Commission's budget is held by the Scottish Government and the Commission is not required to produce audited accounts.

The Commission also received £45,000 of funding from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to support the work of the Experts by Experience panel between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022.

The table below provides a summary of the money that was spent on behalf of the Commission between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022.

The Commission reported a budget underspend this year. This was partly due to Commission meetings and events being held online which reduced costs. A delay in staff recruitment meant that the Commission's experts by experience panel work started later than planned, resulting in less of the budget being spent on this, including staff costs, than anticipated. The underspend was returned to Scottish Government.

Budget – April 2021 to March 2022	£362,296
Staff costs	£174,802
Commissioner fees & travel expenses	£25,151
Commission meetings and events (including support with costs for people to attend)	£874
Research	£29,688
Communications & IT	£15,756
Administration, training and other costs	£3,778
Experts by Experience Panel	£47,565
Experts by Experience (Other Organisations)	£3,932
Total	£301,546

7. Our Work Programme for 2022-2023

Our work programme for next year will focus on three main areas: child poverty, cost of living and tax. Alongside these key pieces of work we will develop a strategy for embedding intersectional analysis across the Commission's work. We will continue to produce submissions to relevant consultations in order to inform policy development and Scottish Government decisions. We will use our networks, Commissioners and Experts by Experience Panel to ensure these submissions are founded on and reflect people's lived experience.

Child Poverty

The Commission will continue to scrutinise progress towards meeting the child poverty targets. It will publish its report looking at progress in 2021-2022 in June 2022 and plans to meet with Scottish Government throughout the year to look at progress in implementing the commitments in the new Child Poverty Delivery Plan.

Cost of Living

The Commission plans to connect with organisations and groups in Scotland through a series of visits focussed on the cost of living crisis. The aim of the visits will be to hear from groups and organisations working directly in local communities, to understand the challenges they face and identify examples of different approaches they are taking, and to gather evidence about the impact of the rising cost of living. The Commission will provide Scottish Ministers with regular updates on what it is hearing from the frontline.

Tax working group

The Commission recognises that some of the ways in which the Child Poverty targets may be met will require significant funding, and we are building our capacity to provide Scottish Government with advice on revenue raising approaches centred around poverty reduction. This will involve scoping work with relevant external academic and practical expertise, and the formation of a working group to inform the Commission's thinking in this area.

8. Membership of the Commission

There are nine members of the Commission who were all appointed through a public appointments process. They are:

Bill Scott (Chair)

Bill is Senior Policy Advisor at Inclusion Scotland and serves on a number of Scottish Government Social Security/Welfare Reform reference and scrutiny groups.

Morag Treanor (Deputy Chair)

Morag is Professor of Child and Family Inequalities at Heriot-Watt University and a member of the Advisory Board for the Child Poverty Action Group.

Linda Bamford

Linda is Convenor of the Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland and previously worked for NHS Scotland.

Yvonne Blake

Yvonne is an anti-poverty campaigner, co-founder of Roots to Return and of Migrants Organising for Rights and Empowerment, and a member of the Unity Centre.

Alex Cobham

Alex is Chief Executive of the Tax Justice Network.

Lindsay Graham (Deputy Chair)

Lindsay is an independent policy advisor with a particular interest in tackling food insecurity.

Katie Schmuecker

Katie is Principal Policy Adviser at the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Shona Stephen

Shona is Chief Executive of Queens Cross Housing Association.

Douglas White

Douglas is a Director at the Carnegie UK Trust.