

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

**Thursday 9 June 2022**

**11:00 – 13:00**

**Hybrid Meeting - Teams/Scottish Government building, St Andrews House,  
Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG, Ground Floor, Room GN.07**

### **Commission attendees**

Bill Scott, Chair  
Professor Morag Treanor  
Lindsay Graham  
Yvonne Blake  
Linda Bamford  
Shona Stephen  
Lindsay Graham  
Alex Cobham  
Katie Schmuecker  
Douglas White

### **Secretariat attendees**

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

## **1. Welcome and apologies**

Bill Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **2. Cost of Living advice – Initial Advice**

Katherine Hudson introduced the paper on the initial Cost of Living advice to Scottish Government. The Commission had been asked by the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government, Shona Robison, to provide advice on the Cost of Living to Scottish Government, setting out actions they could take to support those most at risk, assessing what impact these actions would have, and providing associated costs where possible.

The Experts by Experience Panel met in early June to discuss cost of living and what action could be taken to help and this was fed into the initial draft of the Commission's advice. The Commissioners discussed the initial draft of the advice and discussed in more detail possible recommendations they would like to make to

Scottish Government. Commissioners were asked to email any further comments to the Secretariat. The initial advice is due to go to the Cabinet Secretary by the 14 June with further advice to follow by 12 August 2022.

### **3. Updates**

#### **Commission visits**

Michele Barr provided an update on the Cost of Living project. Commissioners are looking to speak to organisations over the coming weeks and months, as the Commission is deeply concerned about the current cost of living crisis.

The first of the meetings have been set up for June. Lindsay Graham will meet with Home-Start, Aberdeen this month. Morag Treanor and Yvonne Blake will visit the Govan Pantry in June also. In the first instance the Commission has approached 17 organisations in different parts of Scotland to see if they would like to take part in a visit. The secretariat are still waiting to hear back from most of them. We then plan to set up schedule of visits over the coming months.

#### **Panel evaluation**

The experts by experience panel has now been up and running for 9 months. The Commission now want to gather feedback from Panel members as well as Commissioners so that they can learn what is working well and what can be improved over the next nine months.

#### **Annual report**

Katherine Hudson updated Commissioners on the Commission's Annual Report. The draft report will be circulated to Commissioners for comment, the secretariat will send the report to be signed off by Scottish Government and it will be published by the end of June on the Commission website.

### **4. AOB**

- Next Commission Meeting will be on the 7 July 2022.
- Alex Cobham and Rory Morrison provided an update on early thinking around tax compliance.