

Meeting of the Poverty and Inequality Commission

Thursday 4 August 2022

10:00 – 12:00

Virtual Meeting by Microsoft Teams

Commission attendees

Professor Morag Treanor

Yvonne Blake

Shona Stephen

Bill Scott, Chair

Lindsay Graham

Linda Bamford

Lindsay Graham

Alex Cobham

Katie Schmuecker

Apologies

Douglas White

Secretariat attendees

Kathrine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Rory Morrison, Analytical Manager

Michele Barr, Secretariat/Administrator

1. Welcome and apologies

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

2. Cost of Living Final Advice

Katherine Hudson introduced the paper on the Final Cost of Living advice to the Scottish Government. Commissioners discussed and agreed the final recommendations for the advice and what to include in it. The final advice will be circulated to the Commissioners for any further views. The final advice is due to be submitted to the Scottish Government by the 12 August.

3. Cost of Living Update – Initial feedback from Commissioners

Michele Barr provided an update to the Commissioners on the cost of living visits and Commissioners discussed visits that had taken place so far. Commissioners will visit 5 organisations in August. The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing

and Local Government will attend the August meeting with Stepping Stones for Families and one of the panel members will attend with Commissioners a virtual cost of living meeting with the Community Foodbank - Skye and Lochalsh.

For future cost of living visits Michele will contact the organisations first and ask them to provide dates for September and October and will come back to Commissioners to see who is free to visit.

4. Scottish Government Equality Evidence Strategy Consultation

The Commission has been asked to respond to a Scottish Government consultation on its next Equality Evidence Strategy (covering actions during the period 2023-25).

Commissioners were asked to provide any comments on any of the other listed actions and if there are additional improvement actions the Commission thinks should be considered by SG that are achievable in the 2023-25 period. The written consultation itself closes on 23 September 2022 and a draft response will be brought to the next Commission meeting. Comments to be sent to the secretariat by 18 August.

7. AOB

- The next Commission Meeting on the 1 September will be a hybrid/Teams meeting at Norton Park, Edinburgh.
- Commissioners are invited to take part in-person/hybrid meeting of the Experts by Experience Panel at Norton Park, Edinburgh.
- The Cabinet Secretary will be virtually attending the Commission meeting for the first half an hour on 29 September to discuss the cost of living advice.
- Lindsay Graham spoke to Commissioners about infant food insecurity. Commissioners were asked to raise infant food insecurity at the cost of living visits. Katie Schmuecker flagged she would like to be involved further in the work with Lindsay.