

Meeting of the Poverty and Inequality Commission

Thursday 27 October 2022

10:00 – 12:30

Hybrid Meeting – MS Teams, Norton Park, 57 Albion Road, Edinburgh EH7 5QY

Commission attendees

Bill Scott, Chair
Professor Morag Treanor
Lindsay Graham
Yvonne Blake
Katie Schmuecker
Linda Bamford

Other Attendees

Three Experts by Experience Panel members (Item 2)

External Attendees – Scottish Government (Item 2)

Joanne Farrow, Deputy Director - Employability Division
Amy Stuart, Head of Employability Improvement and Design Unit
Carole-Ann Wilson, Policy Executive, Employability Policy Team

Secretariat attendees

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager
Rory Morrison, Analytical Manager
Michele Barr, Secretariat/Administrator

Observer

Munwar Hussain who joins the Commission secretariat on 31 October

Apologies

Shona Stephen
Alex Cobham

1. Welcome and apologies

Bill Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were given for Shona Stephen and Alex Cobham. Bill welcomed Munwar Hussain who joins the secretariat team on 31 October.

2. Scottish Government Employability Policy Team

The Commission had agreed with the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government that it would invite policy teams with responsibility for

commitments in the Child Poverty Delivery Plan to meet with the Commission to discuss progress with those commitments. This was the first of those sessions.

Joanne Farrow and Amy Stuart from Scottish Government provided an overview presentation of employability services, then there was an opportunity for the Commission and Panel members to have a further discussion and to ask questions. The secretariat will follow up with the Employability policy team with further questions from the Commission.

SG Employability officials and Experts by Experience Panel members left the meeting

3. Emergency Budget Review update

The Commission were updated that the Scottish Government Emergency Budget Review had been delayed and would now not be published this week.

4. Panel thank you vouchers

Bill Scott provided an overview of the paper on panel thank you vouchers, given to members of the Commission's Experts by Experience Panel to thank them for their contribution to Panel activities. The Commissioners discussed the recommendations in the paper and agreed to increase the value of the thank you vouchers for panel members. Commissioners also made suggestions on how the thank you vouchers could be distributed to panel members in the future. The secretariat will follow this up with the panel members.

5. Review of Cost of Living visits

The Commission had a discussion on the paper reviewing the Cost of Living visits. It was noted that the Commission has completed its first round of cost of living visits, first briefing and blog and that now was a good opportunity for the Commission to reflect on the work so far and how to build on it for the rest of the year.

Commissioners discussed the suggested options for future visits in the paper and made recommendations to focus on a particular theme for visits for the next quarter. The secretariat will put together a proposal and will agree next steps with the Chair and Lindsay Graham, as lead Commissioner for this work.

6. Tax update

Rory Morrison provided an update on the tax working group. The Tax Working Group Commission members are Bill Scott, Shona Stephen, and Alex Cobham along with two members of the Commission's Experts by Experience Panel. The group will have its first meeting on 9 November.

7. Budget/Risk Register/Work Programme

The Commissioners discussed the budget/risk register and work programme. Commissioners provided comments to be updated on the risk register.

8. AOB

- The next Commission meeting will be on the 24 November. The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government will attend.
- Rory Morrison provided an update on the Commission and panel member contribution to Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights.
- Yvonne Blake raised an issue regarding temporary accommodation at the Alexander Thomson Hotel in Glasgow. A meeting with the Children and Young Peoples Commissioner and the Commission has been organised for 7 November to discuss.