

Meeting of the Poverty and Inequality Commission

Thursday 29 September 2022

10:00 – 12:00

Virtual meeting - Microsoft Teams

Commission attendees

Professor Morag Treanor

Yvonne Blake

Shona Stephen

Bill Scott, Chair

Lindsay Graham

Alex Cobham

Other Attendees

Six Experts by Experience Panel members (items 1&2)

Douglas White (item 3)

External Attendees – Scottish Government (item 2)

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government

John Clements, Deputy Private Secretary

Susan Gilroy, Fairer Scotland Team Leader

Helen Harper, Shared Measurement Framework Lead

Secretariat attendees

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Rory Morrison, Analytical Manager

Orlaith McAree, Senior Participation Officer

Michele Barr, Secretariat/Administrator

Apologies

Katie Schmuecker

Linda Bamford

1. Welcome and apologies

Bill Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were given for Katie Schmuecker and Linda Bamford.

2. Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government

The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government joined the Commission meeting. Ms Robison shared her reflections with Commissioners on the

Commission's cost of living advice and actions that Scottish Government had taken. Commissioners and panel members discussed action on the cost of living and provided comments and questions to the Cabinet Secretary. The Cabinet Secretary offered to meet with the Commission for a further discussion after the Emergency Budget Review.

Scottish Government External attendees and Experts by Experience Panel members left the meeting

Douglas White joined the meeting

3. Commission membership – Douglas White standing down

Douglas White has stepped down from the Commission and joined the meeting to say thank you and goodbye to Commissioners.

Douglas White left the meeting

4. Tax Working Group

Bill Scott introduced the paper on the Tax Working Group. As part of its 2022-23 work programme the Commission agreed to establish a working group to look in more detail at how taxation can better address poverty and inequality in Scotland. The paper sets out a proposal for the tax working group to be taken forward from October 2022 to June 2023.

Commissioners were asked if they would like to volunteer to join the group, Bill, Shona and Alex agreed and invites will also be extended to Commissioners who had given apologies for this meeting. Experts by Experience Panel members will also be invited to the working group. Once the group is up and running members will be asked for suggestions for external membership which will be agreed with the working group chair. The secretariat will consider how the group and the Commission may wish to respond to fiscal and tax issues arising from recent UK Government fiscal statements and the Scottish Government Emergency Budget Review, to be discussed at the next Commission meeting in October.

5. Research Proposals

Bill Scott introduced a research paper which sets out four different research topics that are candidates for making use of the Commission's research budget this year was shared. The Commissioners discussed the proposals and provided suggestions to the secretariat.

6. Local Child Poverty Action Reports

The Commission had a brief discussion about draft guidance on Local Child Poverty Action Reports. The Scottish Government is in the process of refreshing the

guidance and has asked the Commission for its comments on the latest draft of the guidance. The secretariat asked for any comments to be sent to the secretariat.

7. AOB

- Next Commission Hybrid Meeting will be on the 27 October.
- Commissioners discussed Challenge Poverty Week, the secretariat is preparing content for the week from Experts by Experience Panel members to share on social media and via the Commission's website.