



Meeting of the Poverty and Inequality Commission

Thursday 11 May 2023

10:00 – 12:30 pm

Virtual meeting - Microsoft Teams

Commission attendees

Lindsay Graham, Chair

Bill Scott,

Professor Morag Treanor

Linda Bamford

Yvonne Blake

Shona Stephen

Alex Cobham

Katie Schmuecker

External Attendees

Scottish Government (Items 1 and 2)

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP

Julie Humphreys, Deputy Director, Tackling Child Poverty & Financial Wellbeing

Clare Dolan, Private Secretary

Connie McAlpine, Fairer Scotland Policy Officer

Members of Experts by Experience Panel (Items 1 and 2)

Secretariat attendees

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Rory Morrison, Analytical Manager

Munwar Hussain, Senior Participation Officer

Michele Barr, Secretariat Administrator

1. Welcome and apologies

Lindsay Graham welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Discussion with Shirley-Anne Somerville, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice

The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice joined the meeting along with Scottish Government officials. Morag Treanor and members of the Experts by Experience Panel shared their reflections on the First Minister's recent Anti-poverty Summit which they had attended. They commented that the level of cross-party engagement

and specific ideas discussed during the Summit was an encouraging sign, and that they looked forward to the next steps.

The Cabinet Secretary said that she was pleased that the Summit was felt to be useful and constructive, and noted that officials are currently in a process of gathering feedback . The Cabinet Secretary also noted that First Minister sees the Summit as part of a process and not just a one-off, and would welcome feedback from the Commission to help shape what happens next.

The Cabinet Secretary and the Commission discussed some of the main messages in the Commission's forthcoming Child Poverty Scrutiny Report 2022-23. The Cabinet Secretary asked Scottish Government officials to follow up with comments on any points of detail if there was not enough time to discuss at the meeting.

The Cabinet Secretary and Scottish Government officials left the meeting.

Members of the Experts by Experience left the meeting.

3. Child Poverty Scrutiny Report

Katherine Hudson introduced the paper on the draft Child Poverty Scrutiny Report 2022-23. Commissioners discussed the draft report and provided comments. Commissioners will provide any further comments by email to the secretariat. The report will be finalised and submitted to Scottish Government within a week.

4. Succession Planning

Katherine Hudson introduced the paper on the Succession Planning. In developing a succession plan the aim is to ensure that the Commission membership has the skills, knowledge, experience, and diversity to deliver its statutory functions and strategic priorities. The plan sets out what skills, knowledge and experience the Commission considers are required, and the actions the Commission plans to take to encourage people to apply for future Commissioner appointments, with a particular emphasis on how it can reach out to those with protected characteristics and lived experience of poverty. Commissioners discussed the plan and agreed they were content with the final plan and the changes to the criteria proposed by Scottish Government.

5. 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. Katherine Hudson provided an update to Commissioners on the Commission budget. The budget forecast for future Commission meetings will be sent in excel format for accessibility. It was agreed that the frequency of meetings for Commissioners and the Experts by Experience Panel will be discussed at a future meeting.

6. Any other Business

- The next Commission meeting will be on 8 June 2023.
- Munwar Hussain provided an update on the PhD student who has attended Experts by Experience Panel meetings as part of their research. The PhD student would like to conduct interviews with Commissioners. Munwar will make arrangements with Commissioners on this matter by correspondence.