

Meeting of the Poverty and Inequality Commission

Thursday 13 April 2023

10:00 – 1:00 pm

Virtual meeting - Microsoft Teams

Commission attendees

Bill Scott, Chair

Lindsay Graham

Linda Bamford

Yvonne Blake

Shona Stephen

Apologies

Alex Cobham

Professor Morag Treanor

Katie Schmuecker

External Attendees

Scottish Government (Item 6)

Jackie Brennan, Head of Social Justice Delivery Unit, SG

Darren Tierney, Social Justice Delivery Unit, SG

Shaun Lundy, Social Justice Delivery Unit, SG

Emma Honeyman, Tackling Child Poverty Policy Unit

Angelica Lorenzo, Principal Researcher, Poverty Research

Member of Experts by Experience Panel (Item 6)

Secretariat attendees

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Munwar Hussain, Senior Participation Officer

Michele Barr, Secretariat Administrator

1. Welcome and apologies

Bill Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were given for Alex Cobham, Morag Treanor and Katie Schmuecker.

2. Child Poverty Scrutiny – key messages

Bill Scott introduced the paper on the draft Child Poverty Scrutiny Report. The paper provided an update on the Commission's child poverty scrutiny work so far, which has involved Commissioners and members of the Experts by Experience Panel meeting with Scottish Government officials to discuss progress with significant actions in *Best Start, Bright Futures*. It set out a proposed structure for the Commission's report, gave an overview of the latest child poverty statistics, and outlined some of the key messages that were emerging from the discussions that have taken place with SG officials.

Commissioners reflected on their discussions with Scottish Government officials, discussed the emerging key messages and agreed the areas to be included in the report

A draft report will be circulated to Commissioners and the final report will be signed off at the next Commission meeting on the 11 May.

3. Tax Working Group update

Bill Scott provided an update on the progress of the Tax Working Group to date. The group has met in February, March and April where they invited external experts to come along to talk through various issues on tax to inform the work. Commissioners were asked to identify any other opportunities, and there was some discussion about whether there were any international comparisons within the EU the Commission could make to inform the work.

Commissioners were content for the Commission's next engagement with the Tax Working group to be in the summer where its final report and recommendations to the Commission will be available.

4. Succession Planning

Bill Scott provided an overview of the Succession Planning paper. Most of the Commissioner appointments are due to come to an end on 30 June 2024 and the Scottish Government is starting to prepare the public appointments process for reappointments and new appointments to the Commission. The Scottish Government has asked the Commission to develop a succession plan by 28 April, to inform this process.

Commissioners discussed the paper and agreed a set of criteria that reflected the experience, skills and knowledge needed for the Commission. Commissioners also provided comments on some of the key things to think about in the recruitment process, i.e. take away jargon and use plain English, make sure Easy Read documents are available and reasonable adjustments are made. Other comments were provided and based on the discussion, the secretariat will send round a skills matrix for Commissioners to complete. The secretariat will then draft a succession plan based on the discussion and the completed skills matrix and will circulate this to Commissioners for comments.

5. Commission Annual Public Meeting

Bill Scott presented the paper on the Commission's Annual Public Meeting. Last year the Commission held its Annual Public Meeting for the first time online and from feedback received was a great success. Commissioners agreed to hold this year's public meeting online at the end of the Summer when the Commission's child poverty scrutiny work would be completed. Some suggestions for the focus of the meeting were the Child Poverty Scrutiny Report, addressing -cutting issues, closing the delivery gap, joined up services, hearing from children and young people, and future recruitment to the Commission.

Scottish Government officials and an Experts by Experience Panel Member joined the meeting (12:00-1:00)

6. Social Innovation Partnership/Flourishing Lives child poverty scrutiny discussion

Scottish Government officials, Jackie Brennan, Darren Tierney, Shaun Lund, Emma Honeyman and Angelica Lorenzo joined the meeting. Scottish Government policy leads presented to the Commission progress on the Social Innovation Partnership/Flourishing Lives model. Commissioners then had the opportunity to have a further discussion and to ask questions on Scottish Government's future plans in these areas.

Scottish Government agreed to provide the Commission with a written update summarising the progress that has been made. Officials would also be happy to set up a visit for the Commission to a funded project.

Scottish Government officials left the meeting

7. Any other Business

- The next Commission meeting will be on the 11 May.
- Yvonne Blake suggested looking for opportunities for skills sharing between Commissioners.