

Meeting of the Poverty and Inequality Commission

Thursday 6 June 2024

10:00 – 12:30 pm

Hybrid meeting – Atlantic Quay, Glasgow/Microsoft Teams

Commission attendees

Professor Stephen Sinclair

Katie Schmuecker

Yvonne Blake

Professor Suzanne Fitzpatrick

Tressa Burke

Alex Cobham

Secretariat attendees

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Rory Morrison, Analytical Manager

Órlaith McAree, Senior Participation Officer

1. Welcome and apologies

Stephen Sinclair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Commission Annual Report 2023-24

Stephen Sinclair invited feedback on the draft Annual Report 2023-24.

Commissioners provided some suggested amendments and additions.

Katherine Hudson will circulate a revised draft of the report by 13 June 2024, inviting

final comments and amendments by 17 June 2024.

3. Commission legacy discussion

Stephen Sinclair invited outgoing Commissioners to share learning, advice and recommendations for consideration by future Commissioners. Commissioners shared some thoughts and suggestions on Commission processes, approach to research, the Experts by Experience Panel, and Commission budget and resourcing. The Commission agreed to recommend that the future Commission should put forward a business case for more capacity in the secretariat.

4. Update on Child Poverty Scrutiny Report

Stephen Sinclair updated that the Child Poverty Scrutiny Report has been published. He has not spoken to the media about the report or recommendations on account of the pre-election period.

Katherine Hudson noted that the report of child poverty scrutiny workshops would be published after the pre-election period and this might provide a further opportunity to promote the recommendations from the Scrutiny Report.

Commissioners discussed the potential alignment between Recommendation 1 of the report - The Scottish Government should convene and lead a national cross-party and civil society agreement to develop a shared six year strategy to meet the 2030 child poverty targets - and the Scottish Government's commitment to cross-party collaboration in eradicating child poverty. Commissioners discussed how the Commission could support such an approach.

5. Budget update and Risk Register

Katherine Hudson provided an update on the budget and risk register. It was agreed to add a new risk to the register around the potential impacts of the Commission commenting on or making recommendations on contentious issues around resource raising and funding allocation, where there is a lack of consensus.

6. Chair and Commissioner updates

Stephen Sinclair provided an update on his meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice.

Suzanne Fitzpatrick will be speaking at the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations Annual Conference.

7. AOB

Suzanne raised a question as to whether the future Commission could have two Deputy Chairs as was in place with former Commissioners. Katherine Hudson said that the Commission needs to discuss this with Scottish Government.

Stephen Sinclair thanked all outgoing Commissioners for their work to date and for their continued work this month and wished them well for the future.