



## **Meeting of the Poverty and Inequality Commission**

**Thursday 1 August 2024**

**10:00 – 12:30 pm**

**Virtual meeting - Microsoft Teams**

### **Commission attendees**

Professor Stephen Sinclair

Katie Schmuecker

Professor Suzanne Fitzpatrick

Doctor Peter Cawston

Kim Dams

Taliah Drayak

Louise Hunter

Doctor Ross McQueenie

Rami Okasha

### **Observer**

Paul Fletcher

### **Secretariat attendees**

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Rory Morrison, Analytical Manager

Órlaith McAree, Senior Participation Officer

Michele Barr, Secretariat Administrator

## **1. Welcome and apologies**

Stephen Sinclair, Chair of the Commission, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the recently appointed Commissioners. Commissioners provided a brief introduction outlining their background and experience. Paul Fletcher joined the meeting as an observer. Paul will attend future Commission meetings to observe until he formally starts as a Commissioner in December.

## **2. Governance and key policies paper**

Katherine Hudson presented the governance and key policy paper and invited Commissioners to send any further questions by email to the secretariat. Katherine updated that Commissioners are required to complete the statutory online induction module on the Scottish Government Governance Hub. Once the module is complete Commissioners were asked to notify the secretariat.

### **3. Overview of the Commission's work**

Stephen Sinclair presented an overview of the Commission's work. Stephen updated on the background and duties of the Commission. Commissioners provided comments and queries on the Child Poverty statistics. The need for the Commission to take an evidence-based approach, the importance of intersectional data, and the risks posed by increasing inequality by focusing solely on the child poverty targets were discussed. The secretariat agreed to follow up some of these points as part of an evidence paper to be provided to Commissioners. Stephen updated that the Scottish Government's Child Poverty Statistics will be published in March 2025.

There was also wider discussion about the lack of ethnic diversity amongst the membership of the Commission and the need to be proactive in engaging with relevant organisations and groups to ensure that the experiences and views of different ethnic groups are reflected in the Commission's discussions.

### **4. Feedback from meeting with First Minister**

Stephen Sinclair provided an overview of his recent meeting with the First Minister. Commissioners shared their views on the consequences of the issues discussed between Stephen and the First Minister for the Commission's work in the future. The secretariat will circulate the note of the First Minister meeting to Commissioners.

### **5. Social Justice and Social Security Committee review of the Child Poverty Act**

Rory Morrison provided an update on the Social Justice & Social Security Committee post legislative scrutiny of the Child Poverty Act. Commissioners were asked to provide views and comments by email, with the final response to be signed off by the Chair.

### **7. AOB**

- In-person Induction meeting will be on the 30 September at Norton Park Business and Conference Centre, Edinburgh.
- The next on-line Commission meeting will be on the 31 October 2024.
- Stephen invited Commissioners to suggest details of other organisations to invite to future Commission meetings to the secretariat.