

Meeting of the Poverty and Inequality Commission

Thursday 17 April 2025

10:00 – 12:30 pm

Virtual meeting - Microsoft Teams

Commission attendees

Professor Stephen Sinclair

Professor Suzanne Fitzpatrick

Doctor Peter Cawston

Kim Dams

Taliah Drayak

Louise Hunter

Doctor Ross McQueenie

Rami Okasha

External Attendees WPI Economics (Item 3)

Matthew Oakley, Founder and Director

Edward McPherson, Senior Consultant

Secretariat attendees

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Rory Morrison, Analytical Manager

Órlaith McAree, Senior Participation Officer

Michele Barr, Secretariat Administrator

Apologies

Paul Fletcher

1. Welcome and apologies

Stephen Sinclair, Chair of the Commission, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were given for Paul Fletcher.

2. Scrutiny report and discussion on recommendations

Stephen Sinclair introduced the paper on the draft Child Poverty Scrutiny report and discussion on recommendations. Following the scrutiny meetings with Scottish Government officials, the discussion at the last Commission meeting, and the joint meeting between Commissioners and Panel members, the secretariat has prepared a first draft of the scrutiny report for the Commission to consider. Stephen Sinclair noted that he may have a perceived conflict of interest in relation to the Fairer Futures Partnerships scrutiny work due to his involvement through SPIRU in the Communities of Practice and therefore would not participate in any discussion relating to this aspect of the scrutiny report. It was agreed that Suzanne Fitzpatrick would sign off this aspect of the report.

Commissioners discussed the recommendations, the overall tone of the report and provided comments and feedback to the secretariat. Commissioners noted that data and improving data might be an area for a smaller group of the Commission to look at in future. Taliah Drayak and Ross McQueenie volunteered to participate in any future work on data. This will be considered further after the scrutiny report is complete in the context of other work priorities the Commission could pursue after its statutory child poverty duties for this year are complete.

The secretariat noted that, based on the discussion a set of recommendations would be drafted and circulated to Commissioners on 21 April. A second draft of the report would then be circulated on 28 April. The secretariat asked Commissioners to provide:

- Any further comments on the draft scrutiny report to the secretariat by **end of the day 22 April**
- Comments on draft recommendations by **9am 28 April**
- Comments on second draft of report by **end of the day 5 May**

The Commission will agree by correspondence that the Chair can approve the final draft of the report on behalf of the Commission, with the final report then being sent to Scottish Government by 12 May.

Break

WPI Economics joined the meeting for agenda item 3

3. WPI Economics presentation and discussion

Stephen Sinclair welcomed Matthew Oakley and Edward Mcpherson from WPI Economics who joined the meeting to present their final findings summary on the Child Poverty Modelling they had undertaken for the Commission. Commissioners asked questions regarding the presentation. The presentation will be circulated and Commissioners can send further questions about the content of the presentation/analysis to the secretariat for response by WPI.

WPI Economics left the meeting

The Commission discussed the consequences of the modelling for the Commission's views on child poverty progress. Rory Morrison highlighted the full report from WPI Economics was being proof read and will be available and circulated shortly.

Due to time constraints, the following agenda items were not discussed during the meeting and it was agreed they would be followed up via email by the secretariat.

- Budget and Risk Register
- Two-child limit consultation
- Meeting with Cabinet Secretary
- Deputy Chair appointment
- Proposal for an additional Commission meeting to focus on Commission performance
- Potential in-person joint Commission and Panel meeting

4. AOB

- The next online Commission meeting will be on Thursday, 29 May 2025.