



NORTHERN
IRELAND
HUMAN
RIGHTS
COMMISSION

130th COMMISSION MEETING (POLICY)

**HELD ON MONDAY 22 AUGUST 2011 AT 10.00AM
AT THE NORTHERN IRELAND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION,
TEMPLE COURT, 39 NORTH ST, BELFAST, BT1 1NA**

Present: Monica McWilliams, Chief Commissioner
Alan Henry
Ann Hope
Colin Harvey
Geraldine Rice
Tom Duncan

In attendance: Virginia McVea, Director
David Russell, Deputy Director
Rebecca Magee, Executive Assistant

Apologies: None

Commissioners welcomed the appointment of Professor Michael O'Flaherty as the new Chief Commissioner and the appointment of the new Commissioners.

Commissioners congratulated David Russell on his appointment as Deputy Director.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

- 1.1 The minutes of the 129th Commission (Governance) meeting held on 27 June 2011 were agreed as an accurate record, subject to minor amendments.

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the 129th Commission (Governance) meeting

- 2.1 The work on the Charter of Rights was discussed at the handover meeting with the incoming Chief Commissioner.
- 2.2 A forthcoming meeting with the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Eamonn Gilmore in relation to the Charter of Rights was also discussed.
- 2.3 Commissioners noted the recent visits to Roe House, Maghaberry HMP, and agreed the follow up work through the DPJ committee.
- 2.4 Commissioners noted that the funding application from Atlantic Philanthropies for training on Human Rights has been approved by the Secretary of State.
- 2.5 Commissioners noted the correspondence received from the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, commending their work over the last 6 years. Commissioners also noted that the Secretary of State and the Director of the NIO has written in similar terms to the Chief Commissioner.
- 2.6 Commissioners noted the farewell reception with stakeholders who have helped to support the work of the outgoing Commission.

3. Quarterly Business Plan Review

- 3.1 The Director confirmed this report was for the period up to June 2011. The amendments were noted.
- 3.2 Commissioners noted that the Annual Review magazine will be published and ready to distribute at the end of August.
- 3.4 Commissioners commended staff for their work on this publication.

4. The Commission on a [UK] Bill of Rights

- 4.1 Commissioners agreed that the Deputy Director will respond to the public consultation. It was agreed that the incoming Commission will meet with this body in November.

4.2 Commissioners commended Colin Harvey on his recent article to the UK Constitutional Law Group on 'Where now for the Northern Ireland Bill of Rights process'.

5. The Universal Periodic Review

5.1 Commissioners noted the timeframe for the completion of this work. The submission will be forwarded on 7 November.

6. Response on (UK Home Office) Employment Related Settlement

6.1 Commissioners agreed to the submission of this paper.

7. Response to Review of Planning Policy (Traveller Accommodation)

7.1 Commissioners agreed to the submission of this paper.

8. Review of work of the outgoing Commission

8.1 Commissioners agreed that this paper should be forwarded to the incoming commission.

9. Any other business

9.1 The Director gave an update on the Investigation into Older People in Nursing Homes, due for publication in the autumn.

9.2 Commissioners noted the information paper on Parades and Counter Protests, and agreed a minor clarification.

9.3 Daniel Holder was congratulated on his new position as Deputy Director of Committee on the Administration of Justice. The NIO has given approval to fill this vacancy.

9.4 Commissioners congratulated Don Leeson (who previously held the position of Head of Corporate Services) on his new position with the Labour Relations Agency.

9.5 The Chief Commissioner noted her appreciation of Commissioners and staff for their support and friendship over the last 6 years.

9.6 Commissioners extended their thanks to the Chief Commissioner for her work, dedication and support over their term of office.

The meeting closed at 11.30.

Approved: _____

Date: _____