



NORTHERN
IRELAND
HUMAN
RIGHTS
COMMISSION

133rd COMMISSION MEETING (GOVERNANCE)

**HELD ON MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2011 AT 10.00 AM
AT THE OFFICES OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION, TEMPLE COURT, 39 NORTH STREET,
BELFAST, BT1 1NA**

Present: Michael O'Flaherty, Chief Commissioner
Christine Collins
John Corey
Milton Kerr
Grainia Long
Alan McBride (Except for Agenda items 6&7)
Marion Reynolds
Paul Yam

In attendance: Virginia McVea, Director
David Russell, Deputy Director
Rebecca Magee, Executive Assistant
Angela Stevens, Caseworker (Agenda item
HRC133.3)
Nazia Latif, Investigations Worker (Agenda item 8
HRC133.4)

Apologies: None

1. Minutes of previous meeting

1.1 The minutes of the 132nd Commission meeting held on 17 October 2011 were agreed as an accurate record.

2. Matters arising

2.1 All matters arising from the minutes were completed.

3. Report from Chief Commissioner

- 3.1 The Chief Commissioner reported on meetings he had held since the last meeting of the Commission.
- 3.2 The Chief Commissioner reported on meetings he held in Westminster.
- 3.3 The Chief Commissioner reported on the visit of the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- 3.4 The Chief Commissioner confirmed that the President and the Chief Executive of the Irish Human Rights Commission will be in Belfast on Monday 28th November for the Joint Committee of Representatives of the two Human Rights Commissions on the Island of Ireland.

4. Report from Commissioners

- 4.1 Commissioners noted that John Corey attended an event at Maghaberry HMP to launch the Donard Centre/Learning and Skills facility.
- 4.2 Commissioners noted that John Corey and Milton Kerr attended a POBAL event for the Irish Language Act.

5. Report from the Director

- 5.1 Commissioners noted the Director's Report.
- 5.2 The Commission approved the nomination of Commissioner Christine Collins as a member of the Audit and Risk Committee.
- 5.3 Commissioners noted the Education Worker and the Policy Worker/Administrator were leaving the Commission, and thanked them for their work and wished them well for the future.

6. Draft Equality Scheme

- 6.1 Commissioners noted the Draft Equality Scheme report. It was agreed that the Director will work with Commissioners on the action plan which is due in February.

Action: Director

7. Commission statutory functions report

- 7.1 Commissioners noted the legal function paper.
- 7.2 Commissioners considered two legal applications for assistance. The Commissioners agreed to act as amicus curiae as per the request of the Court and in one case and declined the applications funding in both cases.
- 7.3 Commissioners noted the Legislation and Policy function paper.
- 7.4 Commissioners noted the Communications and Education function paper.

8. UK Bill of Rights submission: Review of submission

- 8.1 Commissioners reported on the visit of the UK Bill of Rights Commission.
- 8.2 Commissioners noted that the Chief Commissioner will be meeting with the Chair of the UK Bill of Rights Commission in London in December. The Commission will also maintain contact with the UK Bill of Rights Commission.
- 8.3 Commissioners agreed that further discussion was needed before a further paper can be produced.

Action: Director to include on a further Commission agenda

9. Briefing on the Human Rights Day events of 9 and 10 December

- 9.1 Commissioners discussed the Programme for Government; a further planning meeting has been agreed for 28 November.

Action: Chief Commissioner to lead on the development

Action: Chief Commissioner to issue statement

- 9.2 Commissioners noted the arrangements for 9 December, to include a Commission meeting, the Annual Statement and a reception with ex-Commissioners.

- 9.3 Commissioners welcomed news of a visit from Thomas Hammarberg, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, on 10 December and agreed to the plans to take Mr Hammarberg to a Traveller site in Dungannon.

Action: Chief Commissioner to host the forthcoming visit

10. Universal Periodic Review

- 10.1 Commissioners noted an amended version of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Mechanism report.
- 10.2 Commissioners expressed their thanks to Kathryn McNeilly and Leanne Cochrane, who are the professional placements who have been working on this review.

11. Public Expenditure Reduction

- 11.1 This agenda item is dealt with in a closed minute.

12. Parliamentary Report

- 12.1 Commissioners noted the Parliamentary Report.

13. Any other business

- 13.1 There was no further business to be discussed.

Approved: _____

Date: _____