

**141st COMMISSION MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 10.00AM AT THE OFFICES OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, TEMPLE COURT, 39 NORTH STREET, BELFAST, BT1 1NA**

Present: Professor Michael O’Flaherty, Chief Commissioner

John Corey

Alan McBride

Marion Reynolds

Milton Kerr

Grainia Long

Christine Collins

Paul Yam

In attendance: Virginia McVea, Director

David Russell, Deputy Director

Rebecca Magee, Executive Assistant

Claire Martin, Communications Worker

Angela Stevens, Caseworker

Kellie Turtle, Education Worker

(Commissioner Milton Kerr chaired the meeting for agenda items 4, 10, 11, 12)

**1. Minutes of the 140th Commission meeting (HRC141.1)**

* 1. The minutes of the 140th meeting were approved subject to the following amendment-

8.2 An update policy on Language Strategy will be considered by Commissioners

**2. Matters arising**

2.1 Belfast Statement - We are awaiting an update from the ICC. The statement was adopted at the European level and has become the European Statement.

2.2 Annual Statement event - Dzidek Kedzia, Vice-chair, UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights will attend. Details of the event are being finalised.

**3. Chief Commissioner Report**

3.1 Commissioners noted the Chief Commissioner’s report on his schedule of meetings since the last Commission meeting. These included:

* The launch of the Migrant Workers guide with the Law Centre NI.
* Director General of the Prison Service.
* Rev. Ken Lindsay, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland.
* Evidence session at the OFMDFM Committee on Institutional Child Abuse.
* A meeting with the Human Rights Consortium to discuss the recent launch of the ‘Is that right? Fact and Fiction on a Bill of Rights’.
* Lowry Lecture, Royal Courts of Justice.
* A written piece for the Belfast Telegraph on the recent rioting in North Belfast.
* Chairing the event of the United Nations Human Rights Council on "Consolidating the Space for Civil Society".

**4. Commissioner Report**

4.1 Commissioner McBride reported on the farewell event he attended to mark to departure of Maurice Manning, outgoing President of the Irish Human Rights Commission.

4.2 Commissioner Kerr reported on the Foyle Pride festival he attended.

**5. Directors Report (HRC141.2)**

5.1 Commissioners noted the Directors report.

5.2 Commissioners discussed the rent reduction and commended the Director on this effort.

**6. Quarterly report against the Business Plan (HRC141.3)**

6.1 Commissioners noted the Quarterly report against the Business Plan.

6.2 Commissioners discussed the plans for the Commission to get involved in the City of Culture events.

**7. Functions Report (HRC141.4)**

7.1 Commissioners noted the Functions Report.

7.2 Commissioners discussed the consultation responses.

7.3 Commissioners discussed further Community visits.

**Action: The Deputy Director is to forward provisional dates for upcoming community visits.**

**8. Plan for Education until March 2012 (HRC141.5)**

8.1 Commissioners noted the Plan for Education paper.

8.2 Commissioners noted the plan for training in relation to the follow-up of the Nursing Home Investigation report.

**9. Update on Strategic Planning process (HRC141.6)**

9.1 Commissioners noted the Strategic Planning update.

9.2 Commissioners discussed the Strategic Planning events.

**10. UK Bill of Rights Submission (HRC141.7)**

10.1 Commissioners considered the proposed draft submission to the UK Commission on a Bill of Rights.

10.2 Subject to some minor changes Commissioners endorsed the submission which included concern regarding the appropriateness of the UK Commission’s consultation having been extended to seek views which may impact on the UK and Irish Governments’ process for implementing a treaty obligation.

**11. Any other Business**

11.1 Commissioners had a follow-up discussion on the paper prepared for the June Commissioner meeting by Commissioner Reynolds on Accident and Emergency services in Northern Ireland and commended the work undertaken.

11.2 Commissioners discussed the recently submitted NIO Business cases.

11.3 Commissioners noted the Parliamentary Report.

**12. Presentation by Laura Lundy on Education Reform**

12.1 Commissioners welcomed Laura Lundy.

12.2 Commissioners approved the Education Reform paper and agreed to the inclusion of an Executive Summary.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_