

**146th COMMISSION MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2013 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

Milton Kerr

Christine Collins

Paul Yam

Grainia Long

Marion Reynolds

**In Attendance:** David Russell, Deputy Director

Rebecca Magee, Executive Assistant

Claire Martin, Communications Worker

Angela Stevens, Caseworker (Agenda item 12)

Colin Caughey, Policy Worker (Agenda item 10)

**Apologies:** Virginia McVea, Director

**1. Minutes of the 145th Commission meeting**

1.1 Commissioners accepted the minutes of the 145th Commission meeting following minor amendments.

**2. Matters arising**

2.1 Commissioners discussed the recent meeting between the Commission and the Equality Commission on Transitional Justice issues that are a concern for both Commissions.

2.2 Both Commissions also discussed follow-up to a recent meeting request for the Chief Commissioners of both Commissions to meet with the 4 church leaders in NI.

**Action: A further letter for the request of a meeting to be sent.**

**3. Inez McCormack**

**3.1** Commissioners observed a minutes silence in remembrance following the death of former Commissioner Inez McCormack.

**3.2** Commissioners and staff at the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission expressed our sincere sympathy on the loss of Inez. Inez was recalled as a champion of Human Rights and will be remembered fondly for all her dedication and hard work in this field.

**4. Chief Commissioner Report**

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

* Peter Mittler and Professor Roy McConkey on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability.
* Walter Jeanty and Mike Ritchie from the International Committee of the Red Cross.
* Brian Gormley from CAJ.
* Event in Wilton Park for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office focussing on Transitional Justice and Security,
* EU Special Representative on Human Rights.

4.2 Commissioners noted upcoming engagements of the Chief Commissioner. These include:

* Appointment as the Chair/Focal point of the Euro Group for Treaty Body Reform.
* Foreign and Commonwealth visit to the Turk and Caicos Islands to work with their Government and their Human Rights Commission.
* A number of meetings and events in Washington DC and New York City.

**5. Commissioner Report**

5.1 Commissioner John Corey reported on his attendance at the funeral of Inez McCormack. (See item 3)

5.2 Commissioner Alan McBride attended a training event with the Education worker for Families Against Supergrass Trials, who were taking part in a 4 month programme of human rights training facilitated by the Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre.

**6. Draft Legislation on the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Previsions) Bill**

6.1 Commissioners discussed the Draft Legislation on the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

**7. Feedback on the Rosslyn Noonan Visit**

7.1 Commissioners discussed the recent mentoring session by Rosslyn Noonan in January.

7.2 Commissioners expressed appreciation to Rosslyn Noonan for delivering the High Level Dialogue Programme.

**8. Strategic Plan update**

8.1 Commissioners noted the update given by the Chief Commissioner in relation to the Strategic Plan.

8.2 Commissioners agreed to launch the Strategic plan document in April.

**Action: Director and Deputy Director to discuss dissemination of the Strategic Plan.**

**9. Business Plan (Draft)**

9.1 Commissioners noted the Draft Business Plan.

9.2 Commissioners discussed the clarification of work for Year 2 and Year 3.

**Action: Director to be asked to address this at March Commission meeting.**

**10. Policy response on ‘Managing Criminal Cases’ (DOJ)**

10.1 Commissioners noted the policy response on ‘Managing Criminal Cases’ from the Department of Justice.

10.2 Commissioners agreed that following minor amendments, including the addition of General Comment 32 on The Right to a Fair Trial, that the response is accepted.

**11. NIO Framework documents**

11.1 This item was postponed to the March meeting.

**Action: Item to be brought to the March Commission meeting.**

**12. Legal Application**

12.1 Commissioners discussed the Legal Application made to the Commission.

12.2 Commissioners agreed to keep a watching brief of the case involved and to attend in the court proceedings.

**13. Community Engagement**

13.1 Commissioners noted the upcoming Community Engagement event that will be in held in partnership with South Belfast Partnership board.

13.2 Commissioners noted the dates for the next 3 Community Engagement.

**14. Investigation update**

14.1 Commissioners noted the update on the Investigation into Hate Crime.

14.2 Commissioners discussed a June launch of the Investigation into Hate Crime.

**15. Parliamentary Report**

15.1 Commissioners noted the Parliamentary Report.

15.2 Commissioners noted the Media report update.

**16. Item introduced by Commissioner Christine Collins**

16.1 Commissioner Collins introduced an item on Sectarianism and National Identity.

**17. Any other Business**

17.1 City of Culture: Commissioners discussed the plans for Derry City of Culture.

**Action: Derry City of Culture paper to be circulated to Commissioners.**

**Action: Terms of Reference of the Tender document to be circulated to Commissioners.**

**Action: Derry City of Culture to be on the Agenda for March meeting.**

17.2 Team-building: Commissioners discussed the recent team-building event that was attended by Commissioners and staff. Commissioners agreed that this was a very worthwhile exercise to build relations between the board and staff and agreed to a training plan between staff and Commissioners.

17.3 Meeting agenda: Commissioners agreed that where relevant a specific direction will be given, it will be noted.

17.4 Commissioners discussed minutes recorded to ensure information sharing and transparency.

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

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