

**149th COMMISSION MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY 20 MAY 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

Alan McBride

Milton Kerr

John Corey

Paul Yam

Marion Reynolds

Christine Collins

**In attendance:** Virginia McVea, Director

David Russell, Deputy Director

Claire Martin, Communications Worker

Rebecca Magee, Executive Assistant

Angela Stevens, Caseworker (Agenda item 6)

Genevieve Sauberli, Researcher,

(Agenda item 15)

Lorraine Hamill, Finance and Administration Manager, (From 3pm)

**Apologies:** Grainia Long

**1. Minutes of the 148th Commission meeting**

1.1 The minutes of the 148th Commission meeting where adopted following minor amendments.

**2. Matters arising**

2.1 There were no matters arising.

**3. Chief Commissioner report**

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

* Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, Belfast
* Minister David Ford MLA
* Michael Wardlow, Equality Commission NI and Peter Osborne, Parades Commission
* Roseann Kelly, Chief Executive, Women into Business
* International Co-Ordinating Committee (ICC) of NHRIs, Annual Meeting
* European Group of NHRIs, Annual Meeting.
* UN Committee Against Torture (CAT)
* Commonwealth Forum of NHRI conference, Biennial Meeting
* British Irish Ombudsman Association conference, Loughborough University, England (externally funded travel and participation)

**4. Commissioner report**

4.1 No further reports submitted.

**5. Directors report**

5.1 Commissioners noted and discussed the Directors report.

5.2 Commissioners discussed the financial report.

5.3 Commissioners discussed the Risk Register.

5.4 Commissioners discussed the recent tribunal. Commissioners agreed that they would seek legal advice on the possibility of seeking the costs of the tribunal.

5.5 Commissioners expressed appreciation to the Director for the professional manner in which she has acted throughout the tribunal process.

**6. Functions Report**

6.1 Commissioners noted and discussed the functions report.

6.2 Commissioners noted the draft Hate Crime investigation chapters. It was agreed that comments would be sent to the Deputy Director.

**Action: Chapters of the Hate Crime investigation is to be tabled for the June Commission meeting.**

**Action: Table of contents is to be circulated to Commissioners.**

*Chief Commissioner O’Flaherty left the meeting at 11:55; Commissioner Collins took over as chair.*

6.3 Commissioners discussed recent Policy submissions, including work around the Health & Social Care Board.

**Action: Health and Human Rights is to be tabled for the June Commission meeting.**

6.4 Commissioners noted the update on the NICS training pilot.

**Action: The NICS Pilot is to be circulated to Commissioners.**

*Chief Commissioner O’Flaherty returned to the meeting at 12:10 and resumed the role of chair.*

*Angela Stevens, Caseworker joined the meeting.*

6.5 Commissioners noted and discussed the Legal Functions report.

6.6 Commissioners noted and discussed the update on the Adoption Case.

*Angela Stevens, Caseworker left the meeting.*

**7. Draft Corporate Schedule**

7.1 Commissioners noted the Draft Corporate Schedule.

7.2 Commissioners adopted the document as an internal working document.

**8. Film and Animations preview**

8.1 Commissioners viewed the Films and Animations.

8.2 Commissioners expressed their satisfaction at the quality of the Film and Animations and the excellent work of Claire Martin.

8.3 Commissioners discussed the details of the Social Media launch for the Film and Animations which is taking place on 21 June 2013.

**9. Communications Strategy**

9.1 Commissioners noted the Communications Strategy, referred to thereafter as Tactical Map.

9.2 Commissioners discussed the Tactical Map. It was agreed that further comments would be sent to the Communications Worker.

9.3 Commissioners agreed that the Tactical Map would remain an internal document.

**10. CAT update**

10.1 Commissioners noted the update on the CAT submission.

10.2 Commissioners commended staff on the quality of the paper and of the presentation at the recent UN Committee in Geneva.

**11. Advocacy Pilot with NGO’s in the Age Sector**

11.1 Commissioners noted the review paper on the Advocacy Pilot.

11.2 Commissioners agreed with the recommendations set out in the paper.

**12. Draft Chapters of the Investigation in to Hate Crime Report**

12. This item was dealt with under the Functions Report at item 6.

**13. Outreach Programme**

13.1 Commissioners noted the update on the Outreach Programme, referred to thereafter as Community Engagement.

13.2 Commissioners discussed the format of each of the events and agreed that working with the Community Networks in each area was working well.

13.3 Commissioners reiterated how important they found the Community Engagements.

**Action: Dates for the remainder of the year are to be circulated to Commissioners.**

**14. Parliamentary Report**

14.1 Commissioners noted the Parliamentary Report.

*Commissioner Kerr and Rebecca Magee, Executive Assistant left the meeting at 3pm. Lorraine Hamill, Finance and Administration Manager joined the meeting at 3pm.*

**15. Any other Business**

**15.1 CEDAW**

15.1.1 Commissioners noted the CEDAW policy submission.

15.1.2 A revised draft of the document is to be emailed to Commissioners. Comments on the draft are to be received by Tuesday 28 May.

**15.2 Transitional Justice Report**

15.2.1 Commissioners considered the draft version of the Transitional Justice Report.

15.2.2 Commissioners noted the Foreword by the Chief Commissioner.

15.2.3 It was agreed that further comments on the distributed draft document are to be received by Tuesday 28 May.

**15.3 De Silva Report**

**Action: Meeting to be arranged with Finucane Family.**

**Action: The link to the De Silva Report is to be emailed to Commissioners.**

**15.4 Bill of Rights Research Paper (QUB)**

**Action: Paper to be circulated to Commissioners for further discussion.**

**15.5 Press Release Protocol**

15.5.1 Commissioners discussed the Press Release Protocol.

**15.6 Women Prisoners**

15.6.1 Commissioners discussed possible visits to Women Prisoners on the issue of Health Care as this is a priority area in our Business Plan.

**Action: Visit to Women Prisoners to be arranged.**

**Action: Visit to Juvenile Justice System.**

15.6.2 Further discussion around Vulnerable and Marginalised prison communities led to Commissioner Yam offering his assistance if needed for future prison visits.

**Action: Visit to be agreed to be arranged for August.**

Meeting closed at 4:10pm.

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

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