

**150th COMMISSION MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY 24 JUNE 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

Grainia Long

**In attendance:** Virginia McVea, Director

David Russell, Deputy Director

Rebecca Magee, Executive Assistant

Angela Stevens, Caseworker (Agenda item 8)

Kellie Turtle, Education Worker (Agenda item 12)

**Apologies:** Claire Martin, Communications Worker

**1. Minutes of the 149th Commission meeting**

1.1 The minutes of the 149th Commission meeting were agreed 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:

* Panel debate, webcast by WIMPS
* Speaker of the NI Assembly
* Joint Committee with Irish Human Rights Commission
* Joint Commission meeting with Equality Commission NI
* Launch of Rights in Progress 4th Edition, Law Centre NI
* Ulster Peoples Forum
* Speaker at the ‘Preventing abuse and neglect of older persons in Europe’ conference held by OHCHR and the European Commission, Brussels (Externally funded)
* Older Persons Roundtable, hosted by the Older Persons Commissioner
* Family of Denis Donaldson
* Family of Pat Finucane

**4. Commissioner Report**

4.1 Commissioner Paul Yam reported on his attendance as speaker at the Launch of Refugee Week for Northern Ireland Community of Refugees & Asylum Seekers on 17 June.

4.2 Commissioner Marion Reynolds reported on her attendance at the Ministerial Forum for Safer Custody.

**5. Quarterly Report against the Business Plan**

5.1 Commissioners noted the Quarterly Report against the Business Plan.

5.2 Commissioners discussed the risks attached to each project.

5.3 Commissioners discussed the progress of the joint NIHRC and NI Civil Service training project.

**Action: A copy of the project paper is to be circulated to Commissioners.**

5.4 Commissioners discussed the project calendar.

**Action: An agenda item on the recommendations of the Transitional Justice Report is to be discussed in either the August or September meeting.**

5.5 Commissioners noted the Community Engagement dates for the remainder of the year.

5.6 Commissioners noted the update in relation to the Tenders.

**6. Update on Framework Documents**

6.1 Commissioners noted the update on the Framework Documents.

6.2 Commissioners discussed with the Director the Framework Documents.

**7. Finance Report**

7.1 Commissioners noted the Finance Report.

7.2 Commissioners discussed the budget. Commissioners agreed that a letter should be sent to the Secretary of State regarding budget cuts.

**Action: A letter is to be sent to the Secretary of State regarding budget cuts.**

**Action: A percentage spend column is to be added to the financial report.**

**8. Legal update**

8.1 Commissioners noted the Legal update.

8.2 Commissioners noted the update in relation to the Adoption Case.

**9. Investigation Report (chapter update)**

9.1 Commissioners noted the Investigation report.

9.2 Commissioners discussed the draft chapters.

**10. Health and Social Care Report**

10.1 Commissioners noted the HSC Report.

10.2 Commissioners discussed the potential Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the HSCB.

**Action: A reference to the Commissions independence to be included in the SLA.**

10.3 Commissioners endorsed the proposal for an SLA with the HSCB.

10.4 Commissioners expressed appreciation to the Director for her efforts in this pioneering piece of work.

**11. Submission on Termination of Pregnancy in NI**

11.1 Commissioners noted the Submission on Termination of Pregnancy in NI.

11.2 Commissioners discussed the submission.

11.3 Commissioners adopted the submission following minor amendments.

**12. Public Procurement**

12.1 Commissioners noted the Public Procurement paper.

12.2 Commissioners discussed the Public Procurement paper.

**Action: Commissioners are to email the Deputy Director with any comments on the paper.**

**13. Bill of Rights**

13.1 Commissioners discussed how best to highlight the work around a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland.

13.2 Commissioners have agreed to hold a separate meeting with the Bill of Rights as the sole agenda item.

**Action: Date to be arranged for a separate meeting.**

**Action: Paper written by Professor Harvey and Professor Dickson to be forwarded to Commissioners.**

**14. Together Building a United Community**

14.1 Commissioners noted the Together Building a United Community document.

**15. Meeting with the 4 Churches**

**Action: Meeting to be agreed in Autumn with 4 Churches and ECNI.**

**16. Joint Committee with IHRC**

16.1 Commissioners discussed the agenda for the next meeting with the Irish Human Rights Commission. Items to be suggested as for the future agenda are:

* Charter of Rights
* Human Rights and the Border
* Travellers
* Transitional Justice
* Trafficking
* Health
* Identification of joint working
* Racism and Hate Crime
* Immigration.

**17. Derry/Londonderry City of Culture update**

17.1 Commissioners noted the update on the Derry/Londonderry City of Culture event.

**18. Parliamentary Report**

18.1 Commissioners noted the Parliamentary Report.

**19. Any other Business**

**19.1 Flags and Emblems**

19.1.1 Commissioners discussed the Flags and Emblems paper publish date.

**19.2 Auditors**

19.2.1 ASM have been appointed as the Commissions auditors for the next 3 years following a Tender process.

**19.3 Integrated Education**

19.3.1 Commissioners discussed Integrated Education.

**Action: Commissioners are to forward any ideas for a focused discussion onto the Deputy Director.**

**19.4 Prison Healthcare**

19.4.1 Commissioners discussed the commitment in prisons with regard to healthcare.

**Action: A Plan of action is come to the October Commission meeting.**

**19.5 De Silva**

19.5.1 The issue of the De Silva report was raised.

**Action: De Silva is to be itemed on the Agenda for October and a summary paper to be included in the papers.**

**19.6 Press Releases**

19.6.1 Commissioners requested clarification on Press Release protocol.

**Action: Director to report back to Commissioners.**

**19.7 Extra Commission meeting in August**

19.7.1 Commissioners agreed to extra Commission meetings in August on 16th.

19.7.2 Commissioners agreed that the agenda would include:

* Bill of Rights Strategy
* Flags and Emblems papers
* Investigation Report
* City of Culture paper

Meeting finished at 4:10.

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

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