

**159th COMMISSION MEETING ON MONDAY 28 APRIL 2014 at 10:00 IN THE OFFICE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, TEMPLE COURT, 39 NORTH STREET, BELFAST, BT11NA**

**In attendance:** John Corey (Interim Chair)

Alan McBride

Marion Reynolds

Paul Yam

Grainia Long

Christine Collins

**Present:** Virginia McVea, Director

David Russell, Deputy Director

Rebecca Magee, Personal Assistant

Roisin Devlin, Investigator (Item 7)

Alice Neeson, Communications Assistant (Item 7)

**Apologies:** Milton Kerr

**1. Minutes of the 158th Commission meeting, Special Meeting of 7 April and Special Meeting of 7 February**

1.1 The minutes of the 158th Commission meeting were agreed with minor amendments.

1.2 The minutes of the Special Meeting of 7 April were agreed following a minor amendment.

1.3 The minutes of the Special Meeting of 7 February were agreed.

**2. Matters arising**

2.1 An update on the current position of the Chief Commissioner recruitment and the reappointment of Commissioners was provided by the Director following information from the Northern Ireland Office (NIO). (Item 2.1 of previous minutes refers).

2.2 The Director provided an update on the recent recruitment drive for a General Administrator following the restructure of the administration team. (Item 5.2 of previous minutes refers).

2.3 The Director provided an update on the Commonwealth Forum and on a UN Development Programme on Leadership following the Commission’s side event at the International Co-ordinating Committee (ICC) in March. (Item 5.5 of the previous minutes refers).

2.4 The Learning and Development plan for 2014-15 was circulated. (Item 7.2 of the previous minutes refers).

2.5 The Director reported on the meeting between the Commission and the Chief Executive of the NI Housing Executive. (Item 14.1.2 of the previous minutes refers).

**3. Interim Chair report**

3.1 Interim Chair John Corey reported on his meetings since the last meeting. These included:

* Meeting with Rashida Manjoo, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women
* Speaker at a seminar on Public Procurement organised by Assembly All Party Trade Union Group.
* Attended by invitation of Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore a lecture by US Congressman John Lewis marking the US Civil Rights Movement and its global legacy.

**4. Commission report**

4.1 Nothing to report.

**5. Human Rights and Poverty on the Island of Ireland**

5.1 Commissioners were updated on the Joint NIHRC and Irish Human Rights Commission event on Human Rights and Poverty on the Island of Ireland in Newry on 16 May.

**6. Statutory Functions report**

6.1 Commissioners noted the Statutory Functions report.

6.2 Commissioners discussed the Legal Report.

6.3 Commissioners discussed the Community visit timetable and agreed on the following dates:

* Tuesday 27 May
* Wednesday 25 June

**Action: Deputy Director to plan the visits and update Commissioners.**

6.4 Commissioners discussed the financial report.

6.5 Commissioners thanked staff on the delivery of work to budget within a tough year.

**7. Human Rights Inquiry**

*Alice Neeson, Communications Assistant and Roisin Devlin, Investigator joined the meeting at 11:15.*

7.1 Commissioners were briefed on the papers provided for discussion.

7.2 Commissioners discussed the Terms of Reference.

7.3 Commissioners accepted the Terms of Reference for the Human Rights Inquiry.

7.4 Commissioners discussed the Communication Strategy for Human Rights Inquiry noting that the Strategy was in development.

7.5 Commissioners discussed media options for the whole of the Inquiry.

7.6 Commissioners discussed a Risk assessment of the Inquiry. It was reported that the risks for the inquiry will be recorded on the Commission’s risk register.

7.7 Commissioners discussed the evidence gathering and hearing portions of the Inquiry including the venue of each, it was agreed that once a final list was available it would be circulated.

**Action: Full list of dates and venues to be circulated to Commissioners when available.**

*Alice Neeson and Roisin Devlin left the meeting at 12:35.*

**8. Discussion on Finucane and De Silva**

8.1 It was noted that Commissioners are awaiting the conclusion of the Convention against Torture (CAT) State Report. (Item 9.2 of previous minute refers).

8.2 It was further noted that the matter was before the Courts as the family was pursuing a Judicial Review against the Government’s decision not to hold an enquiry.

**9. Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland**

9.1 Commissioners agreed as per the last Commission meeting to seek meetings with Political Parties. This is ongoing.

**10. Any other Business**

10.1 It was noted that a request by Commissioners to seek the recovery of costs in respect of tribunal proceeding was not granted.

10.2 Commissioners received a copy of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) General recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations for information.

*Meeting closed at 12:55.*