

**162nd COMMISSION MEETING ON FRIDAY 8 AUGUST AT 11:00 IN THE OFFICE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, TEMPLE COURT, 39 NORTH STREET, BELFAST, BT1 1NA**

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

Alan McBride

Marion Reynolds

Paul Yam

Grainia Long (from 12:00)

Christine Collins (from 11:30)

**Present:** Virginia McVea, Director

David Russell, Deputy Director

Rebecca Magee, Personal Assistant

Claire Martin, Communications Worker

Roisin Devlin, Investigations (Item 6)

**Apologies:** Milton Kerr

**1. Minutes of the 161st Commission meeting**

1.1 The minutes of the 161st Commission meeting were agreed following the inclusion of:

* 5.4 Commissioners to submit any further comments on Statutory Functions report by email.

1.2 The closed minutes of the 161st Commission meeting were agreed.

**2. Matters arising**

2.1 Commissioners discussed the Sinn Fein housing complaint to the Department of Social Development (DSD). An update was provided on the Commission’s involvement and ongoing communications with DSD. The response on the Sinn Féin complaint will be sent to the Equality Commission as part of their investigation. Commissioners also agreed the terms of the response to DSD.

2.2 Commissioners discussed and agreed representations to the Home Secretary that the proposed independent inquiry should cover Kincora Boys’ home.

**3. Interim Chair Report**

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

* Meeting with Catharine Daly from DHSSPS on the Human Rights Inquiry into Emergency Health Care
* Meeting with Mr Ivan Lewis MP, Labour Party Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
* Meeting with representatives of all the Health and Social Care Trusts on the Human Rights Inquiry into Emergency Health Care
* Meeting with Finance and Personnel Minister Simon Hamilton on Public Procurement and Human Rights

**4. Commissioner Reports**

4.1 Commissioner Alan McBride reported on his recent trip to Columbia with the UN to be part of a panel of experts on Victims of Conflict. This was in a personal capacity.

**5. Directors Report**

5.1 Commissioners noted the Directors report.

5.2 Commissioners noted the update on the Annual Accounts being laid in Parliament.

5.3 Commissioners were updated on upcoming Human Rights Based Approach training that is currently being designed for PSNI and the Civil Service Commissioners.

5.4 Commissioners were updated on the Budget following the notice of possible cuts from the NIO.

5.5 Commissioners discussed an application for legal assistance. It was agreed that the Commission would issue a letter to the solicitor involved.

5.6 Commissioners were provided with an update on Finance.

5.7 Commissioners discussed the Together: Building a United Community (TBUC). It was agreed that the UK Government response would be sent to Commissioners.

**Action: Deputy Director to forward a copy of the UK response to TBUC to Commissioners.**

5.8 Commissioners were briefed on the upcoming consultation responses which are:

* Mental Capacity Bill
* Justice Bill
* TBUC
* Racial Equality Strategy

**6. Update on the Human Rights Inquiry into Emergency Health Care**

6.1 Commissioners were provided with an update on the Human Rights Inquiry into Emergency Health Care.

6.2 Commissioners were given a breakdown of the call for evidence. The phone line evidence had been extended to the end of July. Submissions are still being received.

6.3 Commissioners were given an update on the plan for the public hearings that begin in Belfast on 4 September.

**7. Hallett Review**

7.1 Commissioners were given the background of the Hallett Review.

7.2 Commissioners discussed the Hallett Review.

**8. Information papers**

8.1 Commissioners noted the information paper on Policing hate crime: the Kosovo and New South Wales experience- A study note by the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. It was agreed that this paper would go on the agenda for the Commission meeting in September.

**Action: Paper to be added to agenda for September meeting.**

**9. Any other Business**

9.1 There was no other business discussed.