

**26 September 2022**

## **249<sup>th</sup> COMMISSION MEETING**

### **Held in the Commission's Offices, Alfred House, 19-21 Alfred Street, Belfast, BT2 8ED and via Teams**

**Present:** Alyson Kilpatrick, Chief Commissioner  
Helen Henderson  
Jonathan Kearney  
David A Lavery CB  
Eddie Rooney  
Stephen White

**In attendance:** David Russell, Chief Executive  
Rebecca Magee, Executive Assistant (to Chief  
Commissioner and Chief Executive)  
Rhyannon Blythe, Director (Legal, Research and  
Investigations, and Advice to Government)  
Éilis Haughey, Director (Human Rights after EU  
Withdrawal)  
Claire Martin, Director (Engagement and  
Communications)  
Colin Caughey, Director (Policy)  
Claire McCann, Senior Policy and Research Officer  
Elsie Trainor, Boardroom Apprentice

## **1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Lorraine Hamill, Director (Finance, Personnel and Corporate Affairs).
- 1.2 There were no declarations of interests.

## 2. Minutes of the 248<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting

2.1 The minutes of the 248<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting held on 30 August 2022 were agreed as an accurate record following a minor amendment.

**Action: Minutes of the 248<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting to be uploaded to the website.**

## 3. Chief Commissioner's report

3.1 The Chief Commissioner reported on her meetings and events since the last meeting. This included an update on an appearance before Public Committee Meeting of the Oireachtas.

## 4. Commissioners' Reports

4.1 There was nothing to report.

## 5. Chief Executive's Report

5.1 The Chief Executive updated Commissioners on the recruitment for the Para-Legal post, with a successful candidate appointed. The Chief Executive informed Commissioners that the recruitment for the Senior Finance and Personnel Officer was unsuccessful and that further consideration was needed before moving forward. The Chief Executive noted that the Corporate Services team were under increasing pressure without this post.

## 6. Quarterly Report against the Business Plan

6.1 The Chief Executive presented Commissioners with the Quarterly Report against the Business Plan which broke down the costs per item in relation to the budget as it stands in September.

6.2 Commissioners discussed the Quarterly Report against the

Business Plan and noted the projects that were unlikely to be completed due to budget restraints.

## 7. Finance Report

7.1 The Chief Executive deferred this item as the Director (Finance, Personnel and Corporate Affairs) was not at the meeting.

**Action: Finance Report to be emailed to Commissioners.**

## 8. Annual Statement Chapters

8.1 Commissioners agreed to deal with the Annual Statement Chapters via emails with responses due with the Director (Legal, Research and Investigations, and Advice to Government) by the end of the week. The complete Annual Statement draft will be with the October papers for final sign off.

**Action: Complete Annual Statement draft to be presented at October meeting.**

## 9. Legal Update

9.1 The Director (Legal, Research and Investigations, and Advice to Government) provided an update on:

- NM (Access to DoJ pension): The Court hearing was delayed and a new date is being sought.
- JR123 (Rehabilitation of Offenders): The case hearing has been moved to 10 March 2023.
- RMC (Challenge to decision and policy on continuing health care): The Commission provided a third party intervention. Hearing listed for 12 and 13 October.
- SPUC: hearing listed for 8 and 9 November.
- RV (Data extraction of mobile phone data by the PSNI): this case has been settled and awaiting confirmation of costs.

9.2 The Director (Legal, Research and Investigations, and Advice to Government) provided an update on the Love for Life legal

challenge, with no costs anticipated going forward.

## **10. Sexual and Reproductive Health Education Investigation update**

13.1 The Director (Policy) updated Commissioners on the Sexual and Reproductive Health Education Investigation with the majority of schools information now completed. Conversations internally are due to take place regarding ongoing engagement with schools.

## **11. Engagement and Communications report**

11.1 The Director (Engagement and Communications) updated Commissioners on the work of the Engagement and Communications team. This included highlighting recent schools visits to Ashfield Boys and the Sports and Business Forums.

**Action: Dates for upcoming Sports and Business Forums to be shared with Commissioners.**

## **12. Dedicated Mechanism report**

12.1 The Director (Human Rights after EU Withdrawal) updated Commissioners on the work of the Dedicated Mechanism since the last meeting. This included highlighting Oireachtas Committee appearance and ongoing roundtables on the research for the scoping paper.

## **13. Dedicated Mechanism report – ‘EU Developments in Equality & Human Rights: Impact of Brexit on the divergence of rights and best practice on the island of Ireland’**

12.1 The Senior Policy and Research Officer briefed Commissioners on the Dedicated Mechanism report – ‘EU Developments in Equality & Human Rights: Impact of Brexit on the divergence of rights and best practice on the island of Ireland’.

12.2 Commissioners noted the report.

## **14. Any other Business**

14.1 Commissioners welcomed Elsie Trainor as the Boardroom Apprentice. Commissioner Rooney will act as Elsie's 'Boardroom Buddy' for her time with the Commission.

The meeting closed at 12:30pm.