



30th October 2023

260th COMMISSION MEETING
Held in the Commission's Offices,
Alfred House, 19-21 Alfred Street, Belfast,
BT2 8ED and via Teams

Present: Alyson Kilpatrick
Helen Henderson
Jonathan Kearney
Stephen White
Justin Kouame

In attendance: David Russell, Chief Executive
Rebecca Magee, Executive Assistant to the Chief
Commissioner and Chief Executive
Rhyannon Blythe, Director (Legal Services)
Colin Caughey, Director (Advice to Government,
Research and Investigations)
Lorraine Hamill, Director (Finance, Personnel &
Corporate Affairs)
Claire Martin, Director (Engagement and
Communications)
Éilis Haughey, Director (Human Rights after EU
Withdrawal)
Vivienne Fitzroy, Boardroom Apprentice
Michael Black, Solicitor (agenda item 9)
Hannah Russell, Senior Policy and Research Officer
(Agenda items 8-10)
Julia Buchanan, Senior Policy and Research Officer
(Agenda item 8+9)

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

1.1 Apologies were received from Commissioner Lavery.

1.2 There were no declarations of interest.

2. Draft minutes of the 259th Commission meeting

2.1 The minutes of the 259th Commission meeting held on 25 September 2023 were approved.

Action: Minutes of the 259th Commission meeting to be uploaded to the website.

3. Chief Commissioner report

3.1 The Chief Commissioners report was noted.

4. Commissioners' report

4.1 Nothing to report.

5. Chief Executive report

5.1 The Chief Executive updated Commissioners on the hearing of the Sub-Accreditation Committee (SCA) which took place on 24th October 2023. The report will be given in the next fortnight and will be shared accordingly.

Action: Report of SCA to be shared once available.

5.2 The Chief Executive raised Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) that the Commission has with other organisations following a number of requests. It was agreed that MoUs would be on the agenda at the next meeting.

Action: MOU to be on the November agenda for discussion.

5.3 The Chief Executive updated Commissioners on the FCDO bid and shared the news that the bid was successful and a

recruitment would begin for a Project Manager.

6. Finance report

6.1 The Director (Finance, Personnel & Corporate Affairs) presented the finance reports for core and dedicated mechanism expenditure for September 2023.

7. Legal Update

7.1 The Director (Legal Services) provided an update on:

- Own motion challenge to the Illegal Migration Act 2023 – hearing is set for 29th January 2024 for three days.
- NM (pension discrimination) – hearing took place on 8th October 2023, awaiting judgement.

7.2 An application for assistance was circulated to Commissioners by email of 16 October 2023, in line with the standing orders. All Commissioners responded by email and approved the staff recommendation to seek leave to intervene in the legal challenge to the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023.

8. Policy Function – KPI report

8.1 The Director (Advice to Government, Research and Investigations), alongside the Senior Policy and Research Officers presented Commissioners with the Policy Functions – KPI report with a breakdown of the Policy function given.

8.2 Commissioners noted that the Policy Function was on target to meet KPIs.

9. Revised recommendations from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

9.1 This item was dealt with under item 10, Annual Statement.

10. Annual Statement

10.1 Commissioners discussed the proposed Annual Statement for 2023. Commissioners approved the recommendations, with the exception of the recommendation on Spit and Bite Guards which has been returned to staff to be considered further.

10.2 The Annual Statement 2023 will be launched at the Long Gallery, Stormont on 11th December 2023.

11. Any other Business

11.1 Nothing to report.

The meeting finished at 12:50pm