



25 March 2024

265th 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
Justin Kouame
David Lavery
Stephen White

In attendance: David Russell, Chief Executive
Rebecca Magee, Executive Assistant
Colin Caughey, Director (Advice to Government,
Research, and Investigations)
Éilis Haughey, Director (Human Rights after EU
Withdrawal)
Claire Martin, Director (Engagement and
Communications)
Vivienne Fitzroy, Boardroom Apprentice
Ivanka Antova, Policy and Research Officer (agenda
item 8)

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Lorraine Hamill, Director (Finance, Personnel & Corporate Affairs) and Rhyannon Blythe, Director (Legal Services).
- 1.2 There were no declarations of interest.

2. Draft minutes of the 264th Commission meeting

2.1 The minutes of the 264th Commission meeting were agreed following an amendment to agenda item 9.

Action: Minutes of the 264th Commission meeting to be uploaded to the website.

3. Chief Commissioner report

3.1 The Chief Commissioner's report was noted.

4. Commissioner report

4.1 Commissioner Lavery reported that the Law Society had developed a 'Pledge to uphold the rule of law' document which had the support of the Minister of Justice.

Action: Commissioner Lavery to share the document.

5. Chief Executive report

5.1 The Chief Executive provided an update on the Economic review, which included an update on the first meeting that had taken place with the Chair of the panel and the Chief Commissioner.

5.2 The Chief Executive updated Commissioners on the business case to the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) in relation to the development of a legal entity, this included an update on meetings that took place in London with representatives from the Samoa NHRI and the Rwanda NHRI.

Action: Chief Executive to present a paper on the FCDO business case on a legal entity for the April Commission meeting.

6. Finance report

6.1 The Chief Executive reported that the Finance report was unavailable for this meeting due to capacity constraints within the Finance, Personnel & Corporate Affairs team and assured

Commissioners that there had been no significant changes to the finance records from the February report.

- 6.2 Commissioners noted the Chief Executive's reassurance that there had been no significant changes since the February meeting.

7. Business Plan 2024-25

- 7.1 The Chief Executive updated Commissioners that the draft of the Business Plan presented was incomplete due to the budget for 2024-25 not yet set by the NIO.

Action: Final draft of Business Plan 2024-25 to be presented once budget is set.

8. KPI Functions – Dedicated Mechanism

- 8.1 The Director (Human Rights after EU Withdrawal) provided an update on the progress of the key performance indicators for the following areas:
- Policy & legislation
 - Research
 - DM legal
 - Island of Ireland dimension
 - International
 - Corporate & HR
 - Engagement

9. Team updates

Engagement and Communications

- 9.1 The Director (Engagement and Communications) provided an update on:
- Staffing and recruitment
 - Business and Human Rights Index

Action: Business and Human Rights Index to be presented at the April Commission meeting.

Policy

- 9.2 The Director (Advice to Government, Research, and Investigations) provided an update on:
- UNCRPD

- Westminster engagement

10. Any other business

10.1 The Chief Commissioner has requested that the meeting dates for August and October are changed to accommodate her involvement on the GANHRI and ENNHRI boards.
Commissioners agreed.

Action: Executive Assistant to reschedule the August and October Commission meetings.

The meeting closed at 11:40am