



27 April 2026

287th COMMISSION MEETING

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

Present: Alyson Kilpatrick
Mairead Holder
Jonathan Kearney
Justin Kouame
David Lavery
Helen Henderson (Online)
Stephen White (Online)

In attendance: David Russell, Chief Executive
Rhyannon Blythe, Director (Legal Services)
Lorraine Hamill, Director (Finance, Personnel, and
Corporate Affairs)
Eilis Haughey (Director, Human Rights after EU
withdrawal)
Jhoanna Sto Domingo (Personal Secretary to the Chief
Commissioner)
Darren Veighey (Administrative Officer)
Claire Martin, Director (Engagement and
Communications) (Online)

Apologies: Colin Caughey

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

- 1.1 An apology was recorded for Colin Caughey, Director of Policy (Advice to Government, Research, Investigations, and International Treaties).

1.2 There were no declarations of interest.

2. Draft minutes of the 286th Commission meeting and matters arising

2.1 The minutes of the 286th Commission meeting were agreed.
Action: Minutes of the 286th Commission meeting to be uploaded to the Commission's website.

3. Chief Commissioner's Report

3.1 The Chief Commissioner's Report was noted.

4. Commissioners' Reports

4.1 Commissioner White updated Commissioners in relation to the RUC Foundation Annual Lecture, which was held on Wednesday 22 April 2026, which was also attended by the Chief Commissioner. This event was held in conjunction with Queens University Belfast. The guest speaker was Peter Clarke, former Assistant Commissioner at New Scotland Yard and HM Inspector of Prisons, who presented on the Criminal Justice System.

Commissioner White agreed to keep Commissioners informed of any future events.

4.2 Commissioner Henderson updated members on the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship. This organisation allows UK citizens to travel to other parts of the world to enable learning and research which can benefit their local community.

Commissioner Henderson confirmed that seminars would soon be held to share the research.

5. Chief Executive's Report

5.1 The Chief Executive reported that the proposed new pay policy had been shared with the Northern Ireland Office and we were awaiting final approval from the Secretary of State.

5.2 It was noted that the Commission would be unable to publish its Business Plan 2026-27 until it had received the outcome of

the proposed new pay policy as this may result in the budget figures having to be changed.

6. Finance Report March 2026

- 6.1 The Finance Report as at 31 March 2026 (for both Core and Dedicated Mechanism) was presented by the Director (Finance, Personnel, and Corporate Affairs). This paper reflected actual spend for period April 2025-March 2026 (including budget variance). It was noted that the year-end figures may be subject to change depending on the outcome of the final external audit for 2025-26.
- 6.2 Unfortunately the additional £112,000 which had been included in the Business Case for the Comprehensive Spending Review was unable to be drawn down as approval was only confirmed in the middle of March 2026.
- 6.3 Shortlisting had been completed for the Digital Communications Assistant post with interviews due to be held on 5 and 6 May 2026.
- 6.4 The external audit of the Annual Report and Accounts 2025-26 had commenced with a view to having them completed for presentation to the Commission's Audit and Risk Management Committee on Monday 22 June 2026 for approval. They would then be brought to the Commission meeting on Friday 26 June 2026 for final approval and sign off. The Annual Report and Accounts 2025-26 would then be laid in Parliament in early July 2026.
Action: Annual Report and Accounts 2025-26 to be brought to the June Commission meeting for approval and sign-off.
- 6.5 The Chief Executive and Director updated Commissioners on proposals for future recruitment during 2026-27.
- 6.6 It was noted that work on projects included in programme costs does not take account of staff time. It was agreed that going forward a narrative should be included in programme costs, when relevant, to show how much staff time has been allocated to a project.

7. KPI Report - Legal Update

7.1 The Director (Legal Services) presented the key performance indicators for the legal team for the period October 2025 to March 2026.

7.2 The report covered the following areas:

- Litigation
- Enquiries and Casework (without legal action)
- Engagement
- Education

Litigation has been limited following the hearing of *Dillon and Others* by the UKSC in October 2025. A significant number of cases have been stayed pending the judgement across a range of areas.

8. KPI Report – Quarter 4

8.1 Directors reported on their individual areas in relation to the Key Performance Indicators for the final quarter (January to March 2026).

8.2 It was noted that the Key Performance Indicators Reporting Template for 2026-27 was included as an information paper.

9. Any other business and Date of next meeting

9.1 The Chief Commissioner alerted the meeting to an approach for the Commission to endorse a Covid Restrictions Campaign. The Chief Commissioner had responded stating that the Commission could not support campaigns in general.

9.3 The Chief Commissioner highlighted that two teams of staff were participating in the Belfast Marathon Relay on Sunday 3 May 2026 to fundraise for the Stroke Association. Commissioners wished all staff participating the very best of luck.

9.4 The next meeting will be held at 10.00am on Tuesday 26 May 2026.

End of meeting 11:30am