



**26 May 2026**

**288th COMMISSION MEETING**

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

**Present:** Alyson Kilpatrick  
Jonathan Kearney  
Justin Kouame  
Stephen White  
Helen Henderson (Online)

**In attendance:** David Russell, Chief Executive  
Rhyannon Blythe, Director (Legal)  
Lorraine Hamill, Director (Finance, Personnel, and  
Corporate Affairs)  
Claire Martin, Director (Engagement and  
Communications)  
Eilis Haughey Director (Human Rights after EU  
withdrawal) (Online)  
Jhoanna Sto Domingo, Personal secretary to the Chief  
Commissioner  
Darren Veighey, Administrative Officer  
Michael Black, Solicitor (Legal and Research Officer)  
(Agenda Item 8)  
Claire McCann, Senior Policy & Research Officer  
(Dedicated Mechanism) (Agenda Item 8)  
Laura Dawson, Solicitor (Legal and Research Officer)  
(Agenda Item 9)

**Apologies:** Mairead Holder  
David Lavery  
Colin Caughey

## 1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Commissioners Mairead Holder and David Lavery and Colin Caughey.
- 1.2 There were no declarations of interest.

## 2. Draft minutes of the 287th Commission meeting and matters arising and draft minutes of closed meeting held on 14 May 2026 and matters arising

- 2.1 The minutes of the 287<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting were agreed.  
**Action: Minutes of the 287<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting to be uploaded to the website.**
- 2.2 The minutes of the closed meeting held on 14 May 2026 were agreed.

## 3. Chief Commissioner's Report

- 3.1 The Chief Commissioner's report was noted.
- 3.2 Commissioners were informed about a recent meeting with the Secretary of State which included discussion on the NI Troubles Bill and the Supreme Court judgment in the Dillon Case.
- 3.3 The Chief Commissioner also updated the meeting in relation to the current recruitment campaign to replace the four Commissioners who will end their term of office on 31 August 2026.

## 4. Commissioners' Reports

- 4.1 Nothing to report.

## 5. Report from Chief Executive

- 5.1 The initial part of the Chief Executive's report was held in a closed session.
- 5.2 The Chief Executive reported on planning for the role of GANHRI Chair from 2028.

- 5.3 The Chief Commissioner added that there were urgent issues that needed to be addressed in relation to current GANHRI arrangements.
- 5.4 The Chief Executive reported on the completion of a recent staff survey, the findings of which would be communicated to staff by Heads Together. The report will be shared with a future Commission meeting.

## **6. Finance Report April 2026**

- 6.1 The Finance Report as at 30 April 2026 (for both Core and Dedicated Mechanism) was presented by the Director (Finance, Personnel, and Corporate Affairs). This paper reflected actual spend.
- 6.2 The Director also stated that a new Digital Communications Assistant would be joining the Commission in June 2026.
- 6.3 It was also communicated that the Commission's Data and Retention Policy would be updated to reflect that emails would only be retained by the Commission for a period of six months.

## **7. KPI Report - Policy Update**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive provided an oral update on the KPIs for advice to government, research, investigations and treaty reporting.
- 7.2 Commissioners discussed work in progress of the Submission to the Committee for Justice's Call for Evidence on the Criminal Justice (Sentencing etc) Bill. Commissioners agreed the recommendations.

## **8. Legal Update**

- 8.1 The Solicitor (Legal and Research Officer) and the Senior Policy and Research Officer briefed Commissioners on the recent Dillon Judgement.
- 8.2 It was noted that further analysis would be completed and advice provided as appropriate.

**9. Application for Assistance - Data (Use and Access) Act 2025**

- 9.1 The Solicitor (Legal and Research Officer) provided an update and opinion on the Application for Assistance.
- 9.2 Advice from counsel had been sought which resulted in a recommendation not to pursue an own-motion challenge (at this time). Alternative courses of actions were offered by counsel.
- 9.3 It was advised by staff that the Commission should follow counsel's advice in this matter. This was agreed by Commissioners.

**10. Any other business and Date of next meeting**

- 10.1 The date of the next meeting was arranged for Friday 26 June 2026 at 10am. This would be the last meeting for Commissioners Henderson, Kearney, Lavery, and White, who will have served their terms of office.

**End of meeting 12:30pm**