



**187th COMMISSION MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER 2016 AT 10:00 am
IN THE OFFICE OF
THE NORTHERN IRELAND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION,
TEMPLE COURT, 39 NORTH STREET, BELFAST, BT1 1NA**

Present: Les Allamby, Chief Commissioner
Christine Collins
John Corey
Milton Kerr
Grainia Long *until 1.00pm*
Marion Reynolds
Paul Yam *until 2.00pm*

In Attendance: Virginia McVea, Director
Lorraine Hamill, Finance & Administration Manager

Apologies: Alan McBride
David Russell

It was agreed that agenda items 1-3 would be discussed and the format of the agenda would then be changed to allow for item 12 (report back from Audit and Risk Management Committee Members) to be discussed in a closed meeting before lunchtime.

1.0 Declarations of interest

1.1 There were no conflicts of interest.

2.0 Draft minutes of the 186th Commission meeting (HRC187.1)

2.1 The draft minutes of the 186th Commission meeting held on 28 November 2016 were agreed.

Action: Minutes of the 186th Commission meeting to be uploaded to Commission website

3.0 Matters arising

3.1 The Chief Commissioner confirmed that he had spoken with the Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) regarding an interview with the Northern Ireland newspapers on the Joint Committee work. This was agreed in principle. The proposed joint interview with the Irish Times is unlikely to take place before Christmas (paragraph 3.2 of the minutes of the previous meeting refers).

3.2 The meeting to discuss the Human Rights Inquiry would take place in January 2017 (paragraph 3.3 of the minutes of the previous meeting refers).

Action: Meeting to discuss the Human Rights Inquiry confirmed for the morning of Friday 13 January 2017

3.3 Commissioner Corey reported that the final report on the workshop and roundtable he had attended on 27 October 2016 at Edinburgh Law School had been issued to attendees for final comments by 6 January 2017. A copy of the final report would be issued to Commissioners for information after that date (paragraph 5.1 of the minutes of the previous meeting refers).

3.4 The Director reported that discussions were still ongoing regarding the secretariat for the Joint Committee of the NIHRC and IHREC. It was hoped that recruitment would commence in February 2017 (paragraph 6.1 of the minutes of the previous meeting refers).

3.5 The Director confirmed that the process for appointing new internal auditors had been completed (paragraph 6.1 of the minutes of the previous meeting refers).

3.6 The Chief Commissioner confirmed that the agreed amendments had been made to the Equality and Non-

Discrimination Section of the Annual Statement (paragraph 11.3 of the minutes of the previous meeting refers).

- 3.7 The Chief Commissioner reported on the success of the Business and Human Rights Forum and the Sports and Human Rights event that had been held on 13 December 2016.
- 3.8 The Director updated Commissioners on progress with the potential funding bid being considered by the Commonwealth Games Federation (paragraphs 14.1 and 14.2 of the minutes of the previous meeting refers).
- 3.9 Commissioners noted that the Legal Assistant had written to the Northern Ireland Prison Service and was awaiting a response (paragraph 17.2 of the minutes of the previous meeting refers).
- 3.10 The Chief Commissioner reported that the augmented paper on the Article 3 Project was still to be completed and this was deferred until a future meeting (paragraph 19.2 of the minutes of the previous meeting refers).

4.0 Report back from Audit and Risk Management Committee Members (agenda item 12)

- 4.1 The Chief Commissioner provided the background for the Reports from the Audit and Risk Management Committee members and the Independent Chair.
- 4.2 It was noted that the Audit and Risk Management Committee members received the report from the Independent Chair on 15 November 2016. The report still needed to be considered by the Audit and Risk Management Committee and would then be brought to a separate Commission meeting to be addressed.

Action: Report of the Independent Chair of the Audit and Risk Management Committee to be considered by the Audit and Risk Management Committee and then brought to a separate Commission meeting.

- 4.3 It was proposed by Commissioner Corey and seconded by Commissioner Long that Commissioner Kerr would Chair the discussion.

- 4.4 It was agreed that the agenda item would be discussed in a closed meeting.

The open meeting closed at 11.15am.

The closed meeting broke for lunch at 1.00pm.

Commissioner Long left the meeting at 1.00pm.

Commissioner Yam left the meeting at 2.00pm.

The open meeting resumed at 2.00pm

- 5.0** It was agreed that agenda items 4-9 would be deferred.

6.0 Prisoners and Suicide (agenda item 10)

- 6.1 The Chief Commissioner reported that he had briefly discussed the recent suicides in prisons with the Prisoner Ombudsman.
- 6.2 Commissioners discussed the possibility of visiting a prison as it had been a couple of years since the last visit.
- 6.3 The Director confirmed that she would be meeting with the Prisoner Ombudsman on 19 December 2016 with the Digital Communications Worker with regard to a scoping study on health and social care in prisons. The Director said that she would return to Commissioners following that meeting.

Action: Director to discuss with the Prisoner Ombudsman

7.0 Any Other Business

- 7.1 It was agreed that the follow up meetings from the Audit and Risk Management Committee members would be held on:
- Monday 9 January 2017 (all day)
 - Thursday 19 January 2017 (all day)
 - Thursday 26 January 2017 (all day)

- 7.2 A meeting to discuss the human rights inquiry was agreed for the morning of Friday 13 January 2017.
- 7.3 The next Commission meeting would be held on Monday 23 January 2017 at 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 2.10 pm