

**165th COMMISSION MEETING ON MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2014 AT 10:00 IN THE OFFICE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, TEMPLE COURT, 39 NORTH STREET, BELFAST, BT1 1NA**

**In attendance:** Les Allamby (Chief Commissioner)

John Corey

 Alan McBride

 Marion Reynolds

 Christine Collins

 Milton Kerr

 Grainia Long

**Present:** Virginia McVea, Director

 David Russell, Deputy Director

 Claire Martin, Communications Worker

**Present for part**

**of meeting:** Rebecca Magee, Personal Assistant

 Lorraine Hamill, Finance & Personnel Manager

Colin Caughey, Policy Worker

**Apologies:** Paul Yam

**1. Minutes of the 164th Commission meeting**

1.1 The minutes of the 164th Commission meeting were agreed following amendments and subject to finalisation of the wording of 8.5 of the minutes of the 163rd Commission meeting.

**2. Matters arising**

2.1 Dates for Community visits in 2015 were provided. (Item 5.2 of the previous minutes refers)

2.2 Commissioners discussed the HMRC advice and agreed to write to HMRC.

  **Action: Letter to HMRC.**

**3. Chief Commissioner Report**

3.1 The Chief Commissioner reported on his recent meetings with:

* Michael Wardlow, Equality Commission
* Paddy Kelly, Children’s Law Centre
* Mike Nesbitt, UUP
* Claire Keatinge, Commission for Older People
* Carál Ní Chuilín MLA, Minister of Culture, Arts & Leisure
* George Hamilton, Chief Constable
* Steven Agnew MLA, Green Part
* Oliver Wilkinson, Victims & Survivors Service
* Claire Sudgen MLA
* Patricia Lewsley-Mooney, NICCY

3.2 The Chief Commissioner reported on a trip to Westminster where he met with a number of MPs, and peers

3.3 The Chief Commissioner also reported on:

* Speaking engagement at the Belfast Group of CAB Annual General Meeting.
* Evidence session before the Justice Committee on the Justice Bill.
* The Joint Committee meeting between the NIHRC and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (Formerly the Irish Human Rights Commission).
* The meeting of the four NHRIs from the UK and Ireland.

**4. Commissioner report**

 4.1 Nothing to report

**5. Director’s report**

 5.1 Commissioners noted the Director’s report.

5.2 Commissioners were updated on the current position of the Budget for 2015-16 and the potential premises move including the option of a further renegotiation with the landlord to remain in North Street on only two floors.

5.3 Commissioners discussed the finance report.

**6. Annual Statement**

6.1 Commissioners discussed the Annual Statement in detail.

6.2 Commissioners considered the traffic light system being used in the third Annual Statement. The definitions of the colours were agreed after minor amendments and agreed that the system would be used.

6.3 The Annual Statement was agreed following a number of amendments including changing a small number of traffic light coding.

6.4 It was agreed that a review of the Annual Statement format would take place before the production of the fourth publication. It was also agreed in future to provide the draft statement to Commissioners earlier in advance of the date needing to go to the printers.

6.5 Commissioners expressed thanks to Mr Caughey for his work on the Annual Statement throughout the year.

**7. Introduction and Quality Chapters of Inquiry Report**

7.1 Commissioners noted the Introduction and Quality chapters of the Inquiry report.

7.2 Commissioners agreed to forward comments to staff members before the December board meeting.

**Action: Comments to be emailed.**

**8. Submission of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission to the Department of Justice review of access to justice**

8.1 The submission was discussed and a number of immediate amendments were agreed. It was agreed that time would be given to Commissioners to send final comments.

**Action: Comments to be sent to staff.**

**9. Bill of Rights**

9.1 Commissioner John Corey gave an update on his informal contact with political parties.

**10. Any other Business**

10.1 Commissioners were updated on the forthcoming launch of the Carers report that is due to take place on 28 November in the Commission offices.