

**154th COMMISSION MEETING ON MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2013 at 09:30 IN THE OFFICE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, TEMPLE COURT, 39 NORTH STREET, BELFAST, BT11NA**

**In attendance:** John Corey (Interim Chair)

Alan McBride

Milton Kerr

Marion Reynolds

Christine Collins

Paul Yam

**Present:** Virginia McVea, Director

David Russell, Deputy Director

Rebecca Magee, Executive Assistant

Colin Caughey, Policy Worker (item 6+7)

Kyra Hild, Researcher (item 7)

Genevieve Sauberli, Researcher (item 9)

Kellie Turtle, Education Worker (item 10)

John O’Callaghan, Project Manager (item 12)

Rhyannon Blythe, Assistant Caseworker (item 13)

**Apologies:** Grainia Long

**1. Minutes of the Special Commission meeting and of the 153rd Commission meeting**

1.1 The minutes of the Special Commission meeting on 14 October were agreed.

1.2 The minutes of the 153rd Commission meeting were agreed following a minor amendment.

**2. Matters arising**

2.1 The Parades and Protests paper was shared with the Parades Commission before publication. (Para 2.5 of the minutes of 14 October refers)

2.2 Monitoring and Capacity Building in Places of Detention is to be added to the agenda for the December meeting. (Para 7.2 of the minutes of 21 October refers)

2.3 Budget Analysis and Housing report is on the agenda for the November meeting. (Para 8.2 of the minutes of 21 October refers)

2.4 Community Engagement will be on the agenda for the meeting following the next visit. (Para 9.3 of the minutes of 21 October refers)

2.5 The Parades and Protests paper was issued to the Haass team and further dissemination has taken place. (Para 12.3 of the minutes of 21 October refers)

**3. Interim Chair report**

3.1 Interim Chair John Corey reported on his meetings since taking up the post of Interim Chair on 1 November and upcoming meetings, these include:

* CAJ
* Human Rights Consortium
* Law Centre NI
* Children’s Law Centre
* Minister David Ford MP, Minister for Justice

**4. Commissioners reports**

4.1 Commissioner Alan McBride reported on an event he attended for Amnesty in London with 200 young people.

4.2 Commissioner McBride introduced discussion on ongoing intimidation.

**5. Director’s Report**

5.1 Commissioners noted the Director’s report.

5.2 Commissioners discussed the recent training given to the Kosovo Ombudsman and to the Council of Commissioners of the National Institution for Human Rights in Bahrain. Commissioners also discussed the upcoming training that will be delivered to the Office of the Ombudsman in Gibraltar.

5.3 The Director updated Commissioners on her recent attendance at the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) that was held in Budapest.

5.4 Commissioners discussed the Finance report.

*Under the Director’s report, the meeting moved to a closed session.*

*Rebecca Magee left the meeting at 11:10.*

*Rebecca Magee re-joined the meeting at 12:00.*

**6. Annual Statement**

*Colin Caughey, Policy Worker joined the meeting at 12:00.*

6.1 Commissioners noted the draft version of the Annual Statement.

6.2 Commissioners discussed the launch of the Annual Statement on 10 December.

6.3 Commissioners discussed the format of the launch of the Annual Statement which included vox pops to be shown on the day of the event.

**7. Progress Reports**

**7.1 Research into Carers**

7.1.1 Commissioners were updated on the progress of the Research into Carers.

7.1.2 Commissioners agreed that the first draft would be on the agenda for the December meeting.

**Action: Research into Carers to be on the December agenda.**

*Colin Caughey left the meeting at 12:30.*

**7.2 Research on Children in Care**

*Kyra Hild, Researcher joined the meeting at 12:30.*

7.2.1 Commissioners were updated on the progress of the Research on Children in Care.

7.2.2 Commissioners agreed that the first draft would be on the agenda for the December meeting.

**Action: Research on Children in Care to be on the December agenda.**

**7.3 Research on Adequate Standard of Living**

7.3.1 Commissioners were updated on the progress of the Research on Adequate Standard of Living.

7.3.2 Commissioners agreed that the first draft would be on the agenda for the January meeting.

**Action: Research on Adequate Standard of Living to be itemed on the January agenda.**

**8. Discussion on Termination of Pregnancy in Northern Ireland**

8.1 Commissioners discussed correspondence relating to Termination of Pregnancy in Northern Ireland.

**9. Social Housing and Human Rights paper**

*Genevieve Sauberli, Researcher joined the meeting at 1:30.*

9.1 Commissioners discussed the Social Housing and Human Rights paper.

9.2 Commissioners were content with the draft. Amendments were made to the points relating to ‘private sector’ and ‘segregation’.

*Genevieve Sauberli, Researcher left the meeting at 1:55.*

*Commissioner Corey left the meeting at 2:00; Commissioner Reynolds took over as Chair.*

**10. Procurement paper**

*Kellie Turtle, Education Worker joined the meeting at 2:00.*

10.1 Commissioners discussed each section of the paper:

- Executive Summary – adopted

- Introduction – adopted

- Public Procurement – adopted

- Legal Framework – adopted

- Public Procurement in NI: Policy and Practice – adopted

- Conclusions – adopted

- Annexes – adopted

10.2 Prior to leaving the meeting Commissioner Corey requested the draft be shared with CPD.

*Kellie Turtle, Education Worker left the meeting at 2:20.*

**11. Update on Transitional Justice**

11.1 Commissioners noted the update on Dealing with the Past that was delivered by the Director.

11.2 Commissioners were updated on the publication and dissemination of the Transitional Justice in Northern Ireland, Flags Symbols and Emblems and, Parades and Protests papers.

**12. Update of Civil Service Education Programme**

*John O’Callaghan, Project Manager joined the meeting at 2:20*

12.1 Mr O’Callaghan updated Commissioners on the Civil Service Education Programme.

12.2 Commissioners noted the Quarterly statistics from the sessions that have already taken place and that the response to the programme was very positive and encouraging.

12.3 Commissioners noted that it was estimated that over 1000 members of the Northern Ireland Civil Service have so far indicated their participation in the Education Programme.

**13. Update on the De Silva Report**

*Rhyannon Blythe, Assistant Caseworker joined the meeting at 2:30*.

13.1 Commissioners discussed the De Silva Report and agreed to conduct a review in January following the Haass talks, taking account of the comments.

**Action: De Silva to be on the January/February agenda (depending on publication of Haass documents)**

*Rhyannon Blythe, Assistant Caseworker left the meeting at 2:50*.

**14. National Inquiry**

14.1 Commissioners discussed an inquiry of A&E Services.

14.2 Commissioners agreed that the Director should engage further with the Asia Pacific Forum with a view to use the National Inquiry Model for NHRI work.

**Action: The Director is to provide an update on her contact with the Asia Pacific Forum.**

**15. Any other Business**

**15.1 Website update**

**Action: Update on Website to be provided in December.**

**15.2 Update on the Adoption case**

15.2.1 Commissioners discussed the Enforcement of Judgement in regards to the Adoption Guidelines for Northern Ireland.

**Action: Update on Adoption to be provided at December Commission meeting.**

Meeting closed at 3:10.