

15 March 2022 at 1:30pm

SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING

Held in the of office of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

Present: Helen Henderson, Chair
Jonathan Kearney
Eddie Rooney
Stephen White

In attendance: David Russell, Chief Executive
Rhyannon Blythe, Director (Legal, Research and
Investigations, and Advice to Government)
Éilis Haughey, Director (Dedicated Mechanism)
Rebecca Magee, Executive Assistant to the Chief
Commissioner and Chief Executive

1. Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Alyson Kilpatrick, Chief Commissioner and David Lavery, Commissioner.
- 1.2 In the absence of the Chief Commissioner, Commissioners agreed that Commissioner Helen Henderson would chair the meeting by way of Standing Orders 4 and 5.

2. Reproductive Sexual Education (RSE)

- 2.1 Commissioners were briefed on the RSE investigation and discussed the investigation going forward.
- 2.2 Commissioners considered the amended Terms of Reference.

Commissioners were content and agreed to the amended Terms of Reference.

- 2.3 Commissioners considered the new timeline with the suggested date of completion of 31 March 2023 and agreed to this date extension.
- 2.4 Commissioners were content and agreed that the issues highlighted in this investigation have not previously been investigated in line with Section 69 of the Northern Ireland Act.
- 2.5 Commissioners agreed that the organisations that were already put on notice of the Investigation do not need to be reissued with a notice, but will receive an update on Terms of Reference and the new timeline.
- 2.6 Commissioners agreed that new organisations should be put on notice of the Investigation.
- 2.7 Commissioners considered and agreed to re-issue Love for Life with a new notice of Investigation.
- 2.8 Commissioners were content and approved that the Chief Commissioner is the delegated authority to sign off letters of notice of the Investigation on behalf of the board of Commissioners.

3. Draft Business Plan

- 3.1 Commissioners discussed the draft Business Plan for 2022-2023.
- 3.2 Commissioners agreed to the following:
 - Page 3 -Foreword to be shared before publication
 - Page 7 – Priority 1 – approved following minor amendments to grammar and spelling
 - Page 9 – Priority 2 - approved following minor amendments to grammar and spelling
 - Page 11 – Priority 3 – Commissioners discussed pt ii (2) and (3) and agreed that these should be removed for

the period of this business plan (2022-2023) but that it should be kept under review to be reinstated depending on resources and budget for business plan year 2023-2024

- Page 13 – Priority 4 – Commissioners discussed pt ii (3) and agreed to scope potential to support the Disability Forum Members to engage directly with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Page 14 – Priority 5 – following a minor amendment to 'A' Status this was approved
- Page 15 – Corporate Activities – approved
- Page 17 – Budget – approved

3.3 Commissioners agreed to the removal of dates throughout the Business Plan 2022-2023 and agreed that the dates would appear in the Quarterly Report against the Business Plan going forward.

3.4 Commissioners discussed the Commission's performance in accordance with the strategic priorities in line with stakeholder feedback. It was agreed that this topic would be discussed alongside the first Quarterly Report against the Business Plan 2022-2023 at the April Commission meeting.

Action: Discussion on performance in accordance with the strategic priorities to be discussed alongside the first Quarterly Report against the Business Plan 2022-2023 at the April Commission meeting.