



NORTHERN
IRELAND
HUMAN
RIGHTS
COMMISSION

**168th COMMISSION MEETING ON MONDAY 23rd FEBRUARY
2015 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
Marion Reynolds
Christine Collins

Present: Virginia McVea, Director
David Russell, Deputy Director
Claire Martin, Communications Worker
Rebecca Magee, Personal Assistant

Apologies: Milton Kerr
Grainia Long
Paul Yam
Alan McBride

NOTE: The Chief Commissioner noted the meeting was not quorate and accordingly while business matters would be discussed no decisions would be taken at the meeting.

1. Minutes of the 167th Commission Meeting

1.1 The minutes of the 167th Commission meeting were discussed. Commissioners present suggested the following amendments:

5.7 Insert 'The Director reported on'.

9.3 Insert 'for assistance' after request.

10.1 Amendment to wording – insert 'with disappointment'.

Action: Amendments to January's meeting to be approved at the March meeting.

2. Matters arising

2.1 Nothing to report.

3. Chief Commissioner report

3.1 The Chief Commissioner reported on his recent meetings and events, these included:

- Attendance at the Holocaust Memorial event at the Titanic Quarter.
- Speaking at NUI Galway conference, jointly organised by the Irish Centre for Human Rights and the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences on the human right to health.
- Speaking at the Equality and Diversity Forum conference on Beyond 2015 equality, human rights and social justice.
- Visit to Larne House immigration detention centre.
- Visit to Maghaberry Prison.
- Attendance at the NI Policing Board – annual human rights conference.
- Meeting with Glen Jordan, Law Centre and Grainne McKeever, Ulster University, School of Law. In particular it was noted that an online application for funding for a joint project with Ulster University to look at issues around unrepresented litigants is being prepared.
- Meeting with DOJ Legacy Group.
- Media commitments as part of the leave hearing in the termination case including interviews for

UTV, BBC TV, Good Morning Ulster and the Nolan Radio Show.

4. Commissioner Report and general environment discussion

4.1 This item has been moved to the March Commission meeting.

Action: Item on March Commission meeting agenda.

5. Outline report on the Commissioners Retreat on 10+11 February

5.1 The Chief Commissioner gave an update on the retreat along with the action points from the two days. Commissioners present agreed that the discussion should be moved to the March meeting to allow full dialogue to take place.

Action: Item on March Commission meeting agenda.

6. Chapter – Criminal Sanctions and Conflict Related Offences - Business Plan Pillar two: Action 1 on producing a research paper analysing human rights standards and issues of public policy related to the conflict

6.1 There was initial discussion around the second chapter of this research report.

6.2 Commissioners present agreed that this item would be moved to the March Commission meeting and appropriate discussion time given for this item.

Action: Item on March

**Commission
agenda.**

7. Report and associated documents on NIHRC human right based approach to strategic planning

- 7.1 Commissioners discussed the 2013-2016 'Strategy Development – update paper' and suggested it would be helpful to have an updated version for 2016-2019 strategic planning process for the March Commission meeting.

Action: Updated paper to be on March Commission agenda.

8. Business Plan 2015-2016

- 8.1 The Business Plan was discussed and a number of amendments were suggested. A final draft for signing off will come to the March meeting.

9. Statutory Functions report

- 9.1 The Director presented the Statutory Functions report.
- 9.2 Commissioners present discussed the legal functions report including progress with legal challenge on termination.
- 9.3 Commissioners present discussed the recent policy submissions under the policy functions report.
- 9.4 Commissioners present noted the finance report.

10. Human Rights Inquiry update

- 10.1 Commissioners were updated on the human rights inquiry into healthcare at emergency departments. It was suggested that an extra meeting would be held to approve the outstanding chapters.

Action: An additional Commission meeting to

**be arranged
in March.**

11. Bill of Rights

11.1 Nothing to report.

12. Any other business

12.1 Nothing to report.