



**Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta  
an Duine agus Comhionannas**  
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

**Minutes of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission  
Extraordinary Meeting  
9 March 2018**

- Present:** Emily Logan, Chief Commissioner (EL); Professor Siobhán Mullally (SM); Professor Ray Murphy (RM); Dr. Fidèle Mutwarasibo (FM); Sunniva McDonagh (SMD)
- Apologies:** Teresa Blake, David Joyce, Orlagh O'Farrell (OO'F)
- In Attendance:** Laurence Bond – Director; Dr. Ruth Gallagher – Senior Advisor, Joint Committee (RG); Muireann Ní Thuairisg – Private Secretary (minutes)

An Extraordinary Meeting of the Commission took place between 10:00am and 10:20am on 9 March 2018, with some members participating by teleconference.

The Commission considered the draft Joint Committee policy statement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union. RG briefed the Commission on the development of the statement by staff of IHREC and the NIHRC in conjunction with the two Chief Commissioners, and its consideration by the NIHRC.

SMD recommended amendment of the text on the role of the Fundamental Rights Agency to clarify that the FRA does not provide legal protections but provides oversight regarding the protection of rights and this was agreed.

OO'F's recommended changes to the document which had been circulated in advance were agreed.

Commission members agreed the statement and agreed to proceed to publication on 14 March 2018. LB noted that the research report commissioned from Professor Aoife O'Donoghue and colleagues would also be published. EL noted that it is planned to hold a Joint Committee meeting in Belfast the week beginning 23 April 2018.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 10:20.

**Signed:**

**Emily Logan, Chief Commissioner**

**Date:** 15 March 2018