

Draft Minutes

64th Ordinary Commission Meeting

20 April 2023 | 10:00am – 4:20pm

Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, 16-22 Green St., Dublin 7

Present:

- Sinéad Gibney, Chief Commissioner (SG)
- Heydi Foster Breslin (HFB)
- Dr Frank Conaty (FC)
- Jim Clarken (JC)
- Prof Caroline Fennell (CF)
- Tony Geoghegan (TG)
- Adam Harris (AH)
- Michael Finucane (MF)
- Prof Kathleen Lynch (KL)
- Dr Salome Mbugua (SM)
- Sunniva McDonagh SC (SMcD)
- Dr Lucy Michael (LM)
- Dr Rosaleen McDonagh (RMcD)

Apologies:

- Prof Ray Murphy (RM)
- Colm O'Dwyer SC (COD)

In Attendance:

- David Duffy, The Governance Company – Item 1.2
- Éimear Fisher, Acting Director
- Michael O' Neill, Head of Legal – Item X.X
- Niall Kelly, Head of Corporate Services, Item. 4.1
- Sinéad McDonald, Data Protection Officer – Item 4.1
- Maria Mullan, Policy and Research – Item 5.1, 6.1, 7.1
- Ciara Lehane, Office of the Director – Item 5.1
- Dr Iris Elliott, Head of Policy and Research – Items 6.1, 7.1, 8.1
- Naomi Kennan, Policy and Research – Item 8.1
- Muireann Ní Thuairisg, Minute taker

The 64th Ordinary Plenary Meeting of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission took place at the IHREC offices, 16-22 Green Street, Dublin 7 between 10:00am – 4:20pm on 20 April 2023.

SG noted that the meeting is the last meeting for a number of Commission members whose terms are concluding and it is also the last meeting for the Acting Director. SG will be in touch in due course with details of a social event to mark the occasion.

1.1 Apologies, Quorum and Declaration of Interest

Apologies were noted from RM and COD. The meeting was quorate and there were no declarations of interest.

1.2.1 Board Evaluation with David Duffy

The Commission met in closed session with David Duffy without the Executive present. The Chief Commissioner will use the board evaluation report to shape a programme of reform over the next year and will bring back to the June plenary for approval.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.3 Minutes of Previous Meetings

The draft minutes of the 63rd Ordinary Commission meeting of 20 April were approved, proposed by KL and seconded by SM.

The draft minutes of an Extraordinary Commission meeting of 11 April February were approved, proposed by RMcD and seconded by JC.

1.4 Matters arising, not otherwise dealt with on the Agenda

There were no matters arising.

1.5 Director's Report and Finance Report

The Director's Report and Finance Report were taken as read.

1.6 Chief Commissioner Update

The Chief Commissioner Update was taken as read.

2.1 Committee Updates

The updates on the following Committees were taken as read – Audit and Risk Committee, Disability Advisory Committee, Future of Equality Legislation Advisory Committee and the Worker Employer Advisory Committee.

[Redacted text block]

5.1 Future of Equality Legislation Advisory Committee Report (FELAC) - Part One

The following papers were circulated to members prior to the meeting:

- Cover Note to assist the Commission in its consideration of the FELAC Report Part One;
- FELAC Report One to the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

FELAC Report Part One presents the FELAC’s 39 headline recommendations to the Commission arising from its work so far. There are a number of issues still due to be considered by the FELAC, which will be presented to the Commission in FELAC Report Part Two, due for completion by mid-May. Both FELAC reports will feed into IHREC’s second submission to the Department’s Review of the Equality Acts, which will be submitted to the June Plenary Meeting.

Members approved the report and paid special tribute to the work of the members of FELAC for their significant contribution to the work of the Commission.

SG confirmed that she is considering how to best display their gratitude to the Committee and noted her hopes for the Committee to meet in person for the first time.

6.1 Socio-Economic Rights – updated position paper

An updated policy Statement on Socio-Economic Status as a ground of discrimination under the Equality Acts was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

Following discussion, members approved the paper.

7.1 Policy Statement on the right to family reunification under the International Protection Act 2015

An updated statement on the right to family reunification under the International Protection Act 2015 was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

Following discussion, members approved the paper.

8.1 Draft submission to the 2023 UN High-Level Political Forum on the second Voluntary National Review of Ireland

A draft submission to the 2023 UN High-Level Political Forum on the second Voluntary National Review of Ireland was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

Following discussion, members approved the submission.

A presentation on the Impact of the *Care About Equality* Public Awareness Campaign and an update on *Amicus* Budgetary Considerations will be tabled for information at the next Commission meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 4:20pm.