

## Minutes

### Extraordinary Commission Meeting

28 June 2023 | 4:30pm – 5:30pm

Via Zoom

#### Present:

- Sinéad Gibney, Chief Commissioner (SG)
- Jim Clarken (JC)
- Michael Finucane (MF)
- Adam Harris (AH)
- Prof Kathleen Lynch (KL)
- Sunniva McDonagh SC (SMcD)
- Dr Rosaleen McDonagh (RMcD)
- Dr Lucy Michael (LM)
- Prof Ray Murphy (RM)

#### In attendance:

- Deirdre Malone, Director (DM)
- Michael O'Neill, Head of Legal (MON)
- Clare McQuillan, Senior Solicitor (CMcQ)
- Louise Moloney (minute-taker)

An extraordinary meeting of the Commission to discuss the appointment of new Commission members took place on 28 June from 4:30pm – 5:30pm via Zoom.

A memo from the Director and opinion of counsel were circulated to Commission members in advance and taken as read.

The Commission agreed, by majority, to issue correspondence to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth that would not intervene in the ongoing recruitment process but would seek to ensure the structural integrity of future Commission appointment processes.

SMcD dissented from the decision that the meeting authorise the Chief Commissioner to send a letter to the Government concerning certain general issues which the majority believe arose from the appointment of a civil servant as a Commissioner.

She said it had not been demonstrated that IHREC had any role in intervening or commenting on the recruitment process, counsel had confirmed there was no basis upon which the appointment could be impugned and further there was no breach of the Paris Principles. She was concerned about the chilling effect any correspondence with the Government at this time might have on the person appointed even if the letter sought to distance itself from the individual in question.

KL also dissented and outlined reasons in the meeting.

The meeting closed at 5:30pm.