

## Minutes

66<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Commission Meeting

13 July 2023 | 10:00am – 12:45pm

IHREC Offices, 16-22 Green Street, Dublin 7

### Present:

- Sinéad Gibney, Chief Commissioner (SG)
- Jim Clarken (JC)
- Michael Finucane (MF)
- Adam Harris (AH)
- Prof Kathleen Lynch (KL)
- Prof Ray Murphy (RM)

### Apologies:

- Sunniva McDonagh SC (SMcD)
- Dr Rosaleen McDonagh (RMcD)
- Dr Lucy Michael (LM)

### In attendance:

- Deirdre Malone, Director (DM)
- Dr Iris Elliott, Head of Policy and Research, Item 3.1
- Naomi Kennan, AP, Policy and Research, Item 3.1
- Annmarie Townsend, AO, Policy and Research, Item 3.1
- Dr Nusha Yonkova, Head of the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit, Item 4.1
- Dr Hayley Mulligan, HEO, Anti-Human Trafficking Unit, Item 4.1
- Louise Moloney (minute-taker)

The 66<sup>th</sup> 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 – 12:45pm on 13 July 2023.

### 1.1 Apologies, Quorum and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were noted from LM, SMcD and RMcD. The meeting was quorate and there were no declarations of interest.

The Commission agreed to adopt a revised agenda, to finish at 12:45pm, in order to ensure a quorum for the duration of the meeting.

### 1.2 Closed Session

The Commission met in closed session without the Executive present. A summary note of the discussion will be prepared for the next plenary.

### 1.3 Minutes of Previous Meetings

The draft minutes of the 64<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Commission meeting of 20 April were recirculated with one amendment and approved, proposed by AH and seconded by KL.

The draft minutes of the 65<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Commission meeting of 1 June 2023 were approved, proposed by JC and seconded by KL.

The draft minutes of an Extraordinary Commission meeting of 28 June 2023 were approved, subject to one addition from KL, proposed by RM and seconded by AH.

### 1.4 Matters arising, not otherwise dealt with on the Agenda

There were no matters arising.

### 1.5 Director's Report and Risk Register

The Director's Report was taken as read. It was agreed that the Risk Register would be tabled for discussion at the September Plenary meeting.

### 1.6 Chief Commissioner Report

The Chief Commissioner Report was taken as read.

### 2.1 Committee Updates

#### *a) CWC*

The update from the Casework Committee meeting of 3 July was taken as read.

#### *b) DAC*

The update from the Disability Advisory Committee meeting of 19 June was taken as read.

#### *c) ARC*

The update from the Audit and Risk Committee meeting of 26 June was taken as read.

#### *d) Section 35 Triaging Committee*

An update note on the Section 35 Triaging Committee will be provided for the September Plenary meeting.

### 3.1 Policy Statement on Care

The draft Policy Statement on Care was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

The Commission commended the Policy and Research team for its work on the policy statement, in particular the comprehensive research carried out. The Commission noted that the policy statement was particularly welcome at this point in the strategic cycle.

The Commission approved the policy statement for publication subject to minor revisions.

#### 4.1 Second Annual National Evaluation Report of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive

The draft Second Annual National Evaluation Report of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

NY briefed members about the research undertaken in drafting this report, the second such report prepared by the Commission in its role as the National Anti-Trafficking Rapporteur.

The Commission commended the team on the preparation of this report.

Given the considerable length of the report, it was agreed that members would have 10 days to submit further comments on it to the Office of the Director for collation. A further Commission meeting will be convened at the end of July if substantive changes are needed to the report ahead of its publication in September.

A save the date for the launch of the report will be sent to Commission members.

#### 5.1 IHREC Nomination to LSRA

A memo from the Director was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

The Commission nominated DM to the board of the Legal Services Regulatory Authority ('LSRA') in October 2020, prior to DM becoming Director of IHREC. DM now wishes to step down from the LSRA board due to concerns about conflicts of interest arising. The Commission accepted this decision.

In line with the procedure for nominations to external bodies, the Commission were asked to consider and propose potential candidates for nomination to the LSRA. A long list of candidates will subsequently be prepared for discussion at the September Plenary meeting.

#### 6.1 Instrument of Delegation (Review of Appeals)

A draft revised instrument of delegation was circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The purpose of this is to update the existing instrument to ensure that staff can operate effectively in respect of the s.40 functions.

It was agreed to replace the current alternate for the Head of Legal with two senior solicitors, in case the Head of Legal be absent or conflicted.

It was agreed that the Head of Policy and Research and the Head of Strategic Engagement be mandated to act as alternates for the Director in respect of the review of appeals, in case the Director be absent or conflicted. The draft instrument will be further revised to specify that expert legal support will be provided to alternates who do not have legal expertise.

The revised instrument of delegation will be tabled for approval at the September Plenary meeting.

#### 7.1 AOB

A discussion on Research and Data and the presentation on the Care Campaign will be tabled for the September Plenary meeting.

Motions on the appointment of Commission members have passed through the Houses of the Oireachtas. The Office of the Director continues to engage with DCEDIY about finalisation of the appointments, including a date for the appointment ceremony.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12:45pm.