



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

Draft Minutes

74th Ordinary Commission Meeting

18 July 2024 | 2:00pm – 5:10pm

IHREC Offices, 16-22 Green Street, Dublin 7 and Online

Present:

- Michael Finucane (chair)
- Noeline Blackwell (NB)
- Dr Andrew Forde (AF)
- Caoilfhionn Gallagher, KC, (CG) – online
- Adam Harris (AH)
- Prof Kathleen Lynch (KL)
- Dr Salome Mbugua (SM)
- Sunniva McDonagh, SC, (SMD)
- Prof Ray Murphy (RM) - online
- Eoin Ronayne (ER)

Apologies:

- Jim Clarken (JC)
- Prof Colin Harvey (CH)
- Dr Lucy Michael (LM)
- Dr Rosaleen McDonagh (RMD)

In attendance:

- Deirdre Malone, Director (DM)
- Barry Price, Office of the Director for item 1.2 & 1.3
- Dr Nusha Yonkova, Head of Anti-Trafficking Unit for item 2.1
- Hannah Collins, Anti-Human Trafficking Unit for item 2.1
- Ciarán Kavanagh, Anti-Human Trafficking Unit for item 2.1
- Marina Botija Olmeda, Anti-Human Trafficking Unit for item 2.1
- Louise Moloney (note-taker)

The 74th Ordinary Meeting of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission took place on 18 July 2024 from 2pm – 5.10pm in the IHREC Offices and online. MF was agreed as chair in advance of the meeting.

1.1 Apologies, Quorum and Declaration of Interest

Apologies were noted from CH, LM, JC and RMD. The meeting was quorate and there were no declarations of interest.

1.2 Reflection on Thought Forum #3

Barry Price joined the meeting for this item.

The final Thought Forum ‘*Climate and Environmental Justice and Just Transition*’ took place in advance of the Commission meeting. The Commission agreed that it was an interesting and useful session, which will help to inform deliberations on the next Strategy Statement.

1.3 Strategic Planning Update and Concept of Impact

Barry Price joined the meeting for this item.

The consultants will provide a report on all of the consultation undertaken on the strategy, to inform the Commission’s strategy session on 13 September.

DM gave a presentation on theory of change, in the context of the strategic planning process. The Commission welcomed the presentation and thanked DM for making it.

DM will circulate a short paper with key questions for the Commission to consider ahead of the strategic planning session in September.

Barry Price left the meeting.

1.4 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 73rd Ordinary Commission Meeting were circulated to Commission Members in advance and approved, proposed by AH and seconded by ER.

1.5 Matters Arising not otherwise dealt with on the agenda

AF recused himself for this item.

DM provided a brief update on the recruitment of the Chief Commissioner.

AF re-joined the meeting.

2.1 Third Annual National Evaluation Report of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive

Dr Nusha Yonkova, Hannah Collins, Stephen Collins, Ciarán Kavanagh and Marina Botija Olmeda joined for this item.

CG left the meeting.

The draft third annual National Evaluation Report of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive was circulated to Commission Members in advance and approved.

The Commission will consider follow up actions on the issue of exploitation for the purpose of surrogacy and will discuss further at the September Commission meeting.

The Commission thanked the team for their work on this excellent report and wished NY the best in her retirement.

CG re-joined the meeting.

Dr Nusha Yonkova, Hannah Collins, Stephen Collins, Ciarán Kavanagh and Marina Botija Olmeda left the meeting.

3.1 Nomination to the LSRA

The Commission agreed to nominate Eilis Barry, Chief Executive of the Free Legal Advice Centre, as the Commission's representative on the Legal Services Regulatory Authority for a further four year term.

4.1 Director's Report

The Director's Report was circulated to Commission Members in advance and taken as read.

DM updated the Commission on the meeting with the Minister for Children, Equality Disability, Integration and Youth regarding the Commission's vote for 2024 and 2025.

A submission outlining the Commission's key equality and human rights recommendations for the next government has been circulated to all political parties. DM will provide an update on engagement with this submission at the September Commission meeting.

5.1 Commission Engagement Update

The Commission Engagement Update was circulated in advance to Commission Members and taken as read.

The Commission would welcome an opportunity to engage further with the Strategic Engagement team at a future meeting.

6.1 Committee Updates

a) Casework Committee

The note of the previous Casework Committee meeting was circulated to Commission Members in the meeting and taken as read.

The Casework Committee would welcome new members and the terms of reference will be circulated to Commission Members for consideration.

b) Audit and Risk Committee

The note of the previous Audit and Risk Committee Meeting was circulated to Commission Members in advance and taken as read.

A vacancy has arisen on the Audit and Risk Committee. As per the Charter, it must be a female member of the Commission. The Charter will be circulated to Commission Members for consideration.

c) Worker and Employer Advisory Committee

The note of the previous Worker and Employer Advisory Committee Meeting was circulated to Commission Members in advance and taken as read.

The WEAC has asked for a discussion on the rise of extremism for employers and trade unions to be added to a future meeting.

d) Disability Advisory Committee

The note of the previous Disability Advisory Committee was circulated to Commission Members in the meeting and taken as read.

7.1 Any Other Business

The Commission will write to the Policing Authority regarding concerns about the policing of events in Coolock in recent days.

The meeting closed at 5:10pm.

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