

Minutes

Extraordinary Commission Meeting

16 April 2024 | 12:00pm – 3:15pm

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

Present:

- Dr Lucy Michael, Chair, (LM)
- Noeline Blackwell (NB)
- Dr Andrew Forde (AF) – left at 1:15pm
- Adam Harris (AH) (remotely) – left at 1pm
- Prof Colin Harvey (CH)
- Prof Kathleen Lynch (KL)
- Dr Salome Mbugua (SM) (remotely)
- Dr Rosaleen McDonagh (RMD)
- Sunniva McDonagh, SC, (SMD) – left at 12:30pm
- Eoin Ronayne (ER)

Apologies:

- Jim Clarken (JC)
- Michael Finucane (MF)
- Caoilfhionn Gallagher, KC, (CG)
- Prof Ray Murphy (RM)

In attendance:

- Deirdre Malone, Director (DM)
- Michael O'Neill, Head of Legal (MON) for items 3.1 and 4.1
- Stephen Collins, Legal, (SC) for item 3.1
- Áine Bhreathnach, Legal, (ÁB) for item 4.1
- Louise Moloney (minute-taker)

The Commission met for an Extraordinary Commission meeting on 16 April 2024 from 12:00pm – 3:00pm in the IHREC Offices and via Zoom. Dr Lucy Michael was nominated as chair in advance of the meeting.

1.1 Apologies, Quorum and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were noted from JC, MF, CG and RM. There were no declarations of interest and the meeting was quorate.

2.1 Grievance Policy

The current draft of the Commission Grievance Policy was circulated to members in advance. Each section was discussed in turn with feedback noted by the Chair, Director and minute-taker.

The edits arising will be completed by DM and reviewed by LM before being sent to counsel for review and then to unions for consultation. At that point, the revised draft will revert to the Commission for further feedback and edits.

A draft parallel policy to resolve complaints between Commission members will also be prepared.

LM thanked the Commission for a productive session.

3.1 Decision on [REDACTED]

MON and SC joined the meeting.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4.1 Decision on Amicus Intervention in *KW v Minister for Education and Skills, Government of Ireland and the Attorney General*

MON and ÁB joined the meeting.

The opinion of counsel was taken as read.

The Commission agreed to seek leave to intervene as amicus curiae in *KW v Minister for Education and Skills, Government of Ireland and the Attorney General*.

5.1 AOB

DM is progressing a request for members to be enabled access to IHREC email via other devices and a technical solution to this is under development. In the meantime, members are reminded to use IHREC emails for confidential correspondence. Personal emails will continue to be used for scheduling purposes and for alerts.

The meeting closed at 3:15pm.