



Summary of inaugural ICRIR Board meeting – 14 December 2023

The Board met on 14 December 2023, for its first official meeting. The Chief Commissioner, Sir Declan Morgan welcomed the Commissioners and underlined the serious task for the Commission ahead. The Commissioners would need to debate issues collectively and set the strategy for the organisation, with the Executive Team entrusted to work up the detail and carry out the Commission's work.

The Board reflected on the Commission's principal objective of promoting reconciliation and discussed how its vision and mission should reflect that objective. There were many views across the community about what reconciliation might mean and it would be important to engage widely to reflect those views and build consensus. The Commission considered the draft Code of Conduct and having made some amendments, they adopted the core values of impartiality, integrity, openness, accountability and respect and directed that the new Code of Conduct, which will apply to all Commissioners and staff, should be published on the Commission's website.

The Board discussed the draft governance framework documents and the comments received on the draft versions that had been published. They approved a governance framework for the Commission, including terms of reference for the Commission's Committees and Groups. They noted the Secretary of State's letter about funding for the Commission and stressed the need for the Commission to be independent of Government, the Northern Ireland Executive and other outside groups and organisations. They considered the proposed Framework Document, which will set out the Commission's relationship with the UK Government, noting that it had been modified from the standard terms to underline independence. They agreed the Commission's policy on the Declaration and Management of Outside Interests among other policies.

The Commissioners considered the strategic approach to communicating and engaging with those across communities in Northern Ireland, Great Britain, and Ireland, as well as representative groups, public interest groups and public authorities. They considered that the Commission must be willing to engage with all and must also make sure its message carries to those who may be harder to reach. The Board emphasised that the Commission must follow a trauma-informed approach to guide work across the organisation. The Board was briefed about proposals for how investigations might be conducted, based on the papers previously published on the Commission's website.