



Summary of Board meeting – 1 March 2024

The Board met virtually and reflected on a number of strategic priorities as the target date for commencing operations drew closer.

On the proposed draft vision and mission, they reflected on the specific remit set out for the Commission in the legislation, combining the principal objective of reconciliation with the task of information recovery. A mission and vision for the Commission were set out:

Mission: ‘An independent Commission committed to serving victims, families and survivors, by thoroughly investigating and establishing the facts of past events, to provide an acknowledgement of the wrongdoing, in a way that is sensitive to the trauma experienced and assists with the promotion of reconciliation.’

Vision: ‘A society that is more reconciled because the Commission has provided greater information to the public about deaths and serious injuries during the Troubles.’

The Board discussed the High Court judgment in the litigation regarding the Legacy Act, which had been handed down on 28 February. They noted that the Court held that the Commission was independent and capable of carrying out investigations compliant with Articles 2 and 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The disapplication of the conditional immunity provisions in the Act was explained and it was therefore noted that these would not form part of what the Commission delivered, subject to any further legal process.

Members welcomed the recently appointed Chair of the External Assurance Group, who outlined her short term aims for the Group. Board members welcomed the update and voiced their support for the important work of the Group in providing independent scrutiny and advice.

On progress towards the commencement of operations, the Board received an update on a range of issues including estates, ICT and recruitment. Board members restated their commitment to embedding a trauma-informed approach across all areas of the Commission’s work. In May, the Commission would be able to begin conversations with victims, survivors and families who wanted the Commission to investigate their case. These early discussions would be important to building trust and explaining what the Commission’s approach would be, before moving into the Information Recovery stage. The Commission would need to consider feedback and experiences in its early operations to improve and refine its approach over time. More activity to explain how the Commission works would be undertaken in May and June as part of its commencement of operations.

Board members considered and endorsed the recommendation from the Commission's Audit and Risk Committee that 4 month accounts (for the 23/24 financial year) should be produced. They reflected on the proposed performance framework for the Commission's first year of operation, noting the current lack of data to provide a baseline against which success could be measured. Further work would be required to develop a framework of metrics.