



Social Mobility  
Commission

# Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 17 June 2020  
3.30pm – 5.30pm

**Attendees: Commissioners**

Sandra Wallace (Interim  
Co-Chair)  
Steven Cooper (Interim  
Co-Chair)  
Farrah Storr  
Jody Walker  
Harvey Matthewson  
Sammy Wright  
Alistair Da Costa  
Liz Williams  
Saeed Atcha  
Jess Oghenegweke

**Members of the Secretariat**

**Apologies:** Sam Friedman and Pippa Dunn

## 1. Introduction

1.1 The Co-chairs set out their plans for the next two upcoming meetings.

Key points made were:

- This is the first of three meetings to set the Commission's corporate priorities and structure. They want all Commissioners to have a voice.
- They held meetings with Indra Morris (Director General, DfE) and

Robert Arnott (Director, DfE) to review the Commission's forward agenda and its resources and operational constraints.

## **2. Monitoring report**

- Commissioners agreed that the monitoring report was a huge success. It had reached wide audiences and was spoken about in Parliament. It also received considerable coverage in the press and on social media platforms.
- Commissioners' views were that that the inclusion of case studies brought the report to life. The inclusion of easily understood summaries on policy areas also made the report more accessible to non-policy experts.

## **3. Achievements over the last 18 months**

3.1 There was a discussion about the Commission's achievements over the last eighteen months. Commissioners saw their achievements as:

- The monitoring report
- Publication of high-quality research and evidence which gave the Commission legitimacy and solid policy positions going forward
- The Commission's life cycle approach to policy development
- Regional visits which highlighted regional challenges to social mobility
- Bringing the Commission's reports to life with the use of case studies and stories

## **4. Areas for further engagement**

4.1 Commissioners discussed areas they think the Commission could be more vocal. They recommended the impact of COVID-19 and the economic recovery, and socio-economic disadvantage and how that ties into the current

conversation about race.

## **5. Policy areas for further development**

5.1 There was also a discussion about policy areas for future development, resource dependent. Commissioners discussed:

- Intersectionality – specifically race, class and disability
- Health (including mental health)
- Digital inclusion
- Transport
- Housing

## **6. Approaches to strengthen**

6.1 A discussion followed about the approaches that Commissioners wanted to strengthen. The following approaches were agreed:

- Convening and highlighting the impact of social mobility charities
- Developing a long-term strategic approach to government relations and advocacy (with a goal of influencing government policy)
- Leveraging collective power of the social mobility sector (e.g. via employers)
- Changing the narrative around welfare