



1 June 2022

Equality Commission welcomes appointment of new Commissioners

The Equality Commission today welcomed the announcement of the appointment of eight Commissioners by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The new Commissioners are Maureen Brunt, Siobhan Cullen, Ellen Finlay, Monica Fitzpatrick, Colin Kennedy, John McCallister, Sheena McKinney and Preeti Yellamaty.

Geraldine McGahey OBE, Chief Commissioner of the Equality Commission, said:

“I warmly welcome the appointment of the new Commissioners and look forward to working with them to promote equality of opportunity and challenge discrimination over the next three years.

Their diverse backgrounds, experience and expertise, along with their own insights and perspectives, will greatly assist with the important task we have of developing a more equal, shared and inclusive society in Northern Ireland.

Geraldine McGahey also paid tribute to the seven Commissioners who have retired on reaching the end of their term of office. The retiring Commissioners are June Best, Theresa Donaldson, Hazel Francey, Stephen Mathews, Dawn Purvis, Katy Radford, Joe McVey.

“I’d like to thank our outgoing Commissioners, each of whom have shown real commitment to our work, especially during the challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic.”

The Commission benefitted greatly from their knowledge and expertise, as well as their professionalism and commitment to addressing inequalities and championing equality throughout their tenure”, she said.

“I am confident that both the new and continuing members of the Commission will maintain the commitment and enthusiasm of the outgoing members in working to advance a more equal and inclusive Northern Ireland.”

Appointments

Maureen Brunt, Siobhan Cullen, Ellen Finlay, Monica Fitzpatrick, Colin Kennedy, John McCallister, Sheena McKinney and Preeti Yellamaty.

Current Commission Members

Chief Commissioner: Geraldine McGahey OBE

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Neil Anderson

Duane Farrell, Helen Ferguson, Jarlath Kearney, Deepa Mann-Kler,
Carmel McKinney

Outgoing Commisioners

June Best, Theresa Donaldson, Hazel Francey, Stephen Mathews

Dawn Purvis, Katy Radford, Joe McVey