

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee
Tuesday 14 January 2025
1st Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)

Scottish Human Rights Commission – Note by the Clerk

Introduction

1. The Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC) is Scotland's National Human Rights Institution. It is independent of the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government.
2. It was set up under the [Scottish Commission for Human Rights Act 2006](#) (as amended). The SHRC is accountable to the people of Scotland through the Scottish Parliament and is accredited as an A-Status National Human Rights Institution within the United Nations (UN) human rights system
3. The SHRC has a general duty to:
 - Promote human rights by raising awareness and understanding; and
 - Encourage best practice in relation to human rights
4. At this meeting, the Committee will hear from the Scottish Human Rights Commission on its [Annual Report 2023-24](#).

Participants

5. The Committee will hear from—
 - **Professor Angela O'Hagan**, Chair, and
 - **Jan Savage**, Executive Director.

Format

6. The meeting will be held in person.

Topics

7. This session will be an opportunity to discuss such topics as—
 - Strategic Plan 2024 – 2028 and how strategic priorities are set and measured;
 - The impact of operational and strategic changes within the Commission;
 - Successes and where the Commission has made a difference;
 - Resources, finance and staffing including the impact of new powers under the UNCRC Act;
 - Scotland's National Action Plan (SNAP 2) and how actions will be measured;
 - The Commission's views on the delay to the proposed Human Rights Bill for Scotland and any impact it might have on its work;

- Human Rights budgeting.

Next steps

8. The Committee will consider the evidence it has heard at today's session in private and agree on next steps.

Clerks to the Committee
January 2025