

All Party Group on Ethnic Minority Communities

Date: 16 April 2013

Venue: Room 144, Stormont Parliament Buildings

In Attendance:

Political Representatives

Danny Kinahan, Chair (UUP), Anna Lo (Alliance), Kate Nicholl (Research Assistant, Anna Lo), Gill Smyth (Research Assistant, David McIlveen)

BME Sector Representatives

Bobby Rao (Strabane Ethnic Community Association), G.S. Sandhu (NI Sikh Association), Parajit Sandhu (NI Sikh Association), Joseph Ricketts (ACSONI), Joan McGovern (Barnardo's Tuar Ceatha), Frances Wong (Oi Yin Women's Group), Phoebe Wong (Oi Yin Women's Group), Kristyene Boreland (World Wide Women @North Down), Eileen Chan Hu (Chinese Welfare Association), James Holmlund (Baha'i NI), Edwin Graham (Baha'i NI), Ivy Ridge (Ballymena Inter-ethnic Forum), Elizabeth Nelson (NICEM – Secretariat), Helena Macormac (NICEM – Secretariat), Karen McLaughlin (NICEM), Felice Kiel (NICEM).

Apologies

Political Representatives

David McIlveen (DUP), Sammy Douglas (DUP)

BME Sector Representatives

Justin Kouame (NICRAS)

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Approval of minutes of last meeting** Approved
- 3. Matters arising from the last meeting**
 - a. Protocol for new APG Format**
 - i.** Chair: There was some confusion over how things will operate in the new format, therefore some guidance has been developed, to clarify questions [read out; see addendum]. This will be circulated.
 - ii.** Anna Lo: Why not circulated prior, as it is better to see ahead of time?
 - iii.** Chair: Simply a timing issue, will be circulated straight after meeting
 - iv.** AL: Term 'closed' meeting implies it is like closed committee meetings where no one else can enter, perhaps change?
 - v.** Chair: Point taken, will change
 - b. Update on AQWs**
 - i.** Chair:
 - 1.** RRO; OFMDFM has a timetable, will be consulting on the RRO when it's ready
 - 2.** DHSSPS and ethnic monitoring data

- 3. Roma integration questions forwarded by Chris Lyttle
- ii. Chair asked if the Secretariat sends out answers received immediate
- iii. Helena Macromac: We consolidate them as they come in and then send out

c. Follow-up on JRF presentation actions

- i. Chair: On the back of JRF presentation, a series of AQWs will be submitted, so if you have any additional, please send in. Focused on data, so if you have understanding or indication of what data exactly is needed please feed this in.

4. Presentation from Robert Beatty, Head of Census (NISRA), and Uel McMath, Census Office

- a. *RB: Presentation approximately 10 minutes, and then we'll take questions.*
- b. Census is conducted every 10 years, same questions of everyone at the same time.
- c. Statutory – Assembly approved Census bill in 2010
- d. 2011 Census redesigned; post back and internet options. Approximately 10 minutes per person to fill in
- e. Community Liaison and Accessibility
 - i. Groups with particular needs: includes migrants and those with English as second language
 - ii. Different formats
 - iii. Translation in 15 languages with NICEM interpreters
 - iv. Polish most popular language translation take up
 - v. Translation of copy of form, still have to fill in the form in English
- f. Country of birth and national identity; ethnic group
 - i. Know that someone could identify as 'ethnically black' but nationally British/Irish – right to self-identify
- g. Pg 9 of presentation shows what's been released
 - i. January: small areas; looking at areas of 150 households
- h. Census showed one of the fastest expansions in Northern Ireland population in last 100 years; even pre-famine (not the same for the island as a whole)
- i. Having fewer children
 - i. Growth in 40-64 year bracket (baby boomers)
 - ii. 85+ numbers are small, but are doubling every 25 years; pattern which will continue
 - iii. Graph pg 10 shows RoI and NI have highest share of young people compared to EU
 - iv. Aging population, but still a young population
- j. Most NI population growth is in mid-Ulster
- k. Minority ethnic population more than doubled to 1.8%
 - i. Still 98% white
 - ii. RoI 5% non white
 - iii. England/Wales 14%
- l. Large increase in people born outside NI
 - i. Largely people from Eastern Europe
- m. Main language besides English is Polish

- i. Same as geographical population growth (mid-Ulster)
- n. One stat at a time
 - ii. Next cross tabulation released in May; ethnic group by labour market status, etc
- o. Chair: Thank you for presentation. Massive amount of information here, and massive amount coming, looking forward to it. Suggest giving copy of presentation to all MLAs; we get full census results but this is very clear and concise. I wonder whether the groups around the table here felt the right questions were asked? Need statistics to 'sell' positive impact of migrants, so a cross-tabulation on skills, etc to push this would be useful
- p. RB: Plan 200+ tables, full list is on the site. Will be doing ethnic group by qualification, class, employment level, etc. First set released May, second in June/July
- q. AL: Very useful for government and BME groups for lobbying, etc. I see 6% of people were born outside NI?
 - i. RB: yes, country of birth outside NI. Accession countries account for large part of increase but not all
 - ii. AL: Percentage of the overall population?
 - iii. RB: Overall population is 1.8 million; ethnic minorities 1.8%
- r. Patrick Yu: Is it right to say that ethnic minority only non-white, but not white say from Polish background, etc?
 - i. RB: Self-identification, 12 tick boxes. 98% ticked 'white' so ethnic minority is essentially 'non-white.' That is just in 'ethnic group.' This is why we also ask 'national origin,' a person from Poland would probably tick white group, but non-NI national origin.
 - ii. PY: Suggest to further disaggregate with white British/Irish and white other
 - iii. RB: Due to space there is a finite number of groups we can include
 - iv. AL: If approximately 2% of population are ethnic minorities, then with Polish group approximately 3% total?
- s. Gill Smyth: With economic recession will white population decrease due to 'brain drain' while ethnic minority population continue to rise with migration from Europe?
 - i. RB: Overall population likely to continue to rise, but can't speculate on specific groups
- t. Chair: Translations help to fill in but still must fill in form in English – did you encounter any difficulties with this?
 - i. Uel McMath: Not really, we had help provided through the call centre as well as the internet. Where it was an issue we did revert to 3-way fill-ins, with the use of an interpreter, to help fill in the forms. Only 34 incidents where this was used. There was help on the 'doorstep' as needed
 - ii. RB: Translation was done in such a way that it could be 'read across' the form
 - iii. AL: Tickboxes as well must have helped.
- u. GS: Outreach efforts to BME communities instead of relying on the internet?

- i. UM: We had engagement with BME groups ahead of time. We organized workshops with the forms in community centres and made provisions for helping with the form.
 - ii. RB: Also engaged with the Citizens Advice Bureaux
- v. AL: Assessment of English language: was this a self-assessment?
 - i. RB: Everything in the census is self-assessment, yes
 - ii. Were the language skills oral, written or both? Many would be better in one than the other
 - iii. RB: Difficulty with space on the form. First we asked main language, and if they ticked 'other than English' we asked how well they knew English: very well, well, not at all, etc
 - iv. AL: Was there any guidance on 'well'?
 - v. RB: No
- w. Joan McGovern: On page 12 it has main languages other than English, and under 'other' there are 13,000. What are these and why aren't they listed?
 - i. RB: The ones listed are languages where at least 1,000 people indicated they spoke that language. Other languages mentioned are listed on the website. There were no more 'other' languages where at least 1,000 spoke that than those listed in the presentation.
- x. Edwin Graham: Interested in numbers of those from minority faiths?
 - i. RB: Tick for 4 main; others were write-in. These were coded; every faith with at least 10 responses are in the table on the website. Info there from 2001 as well. We will send on the link to this directly **ACTION POINT**
- y. Karen McLaughlin: Did you use the European Commission's guidance for language assessment at all?
 - i. RB: Census is very wide-ranging so there was not space for so much under 1 questions. Strength of census is everyone answers at the same time; weakness is the superficiality of some questions
 - ii. Chair: Can be taken on for next time.
- z. Eileen Chan Hu: I see the Chinese community has grown by over 6,000. Is that households or individuals? Will there be an analysis of the number of minority ethnic children specifically?
 - i. RB: Stat there is number who ticked Chinese in ethnic group box. Will cross-tabulate ethnic group by age within next few months.
- aa. Joseph Rickets: Questions regarding ethnicity and nationality, particularly black African/black Caribbean
 - i. RB: Ethnic group in context with national original questions
- bb. Ken Fraser: 10 years down the line, we will have substantial number of children from Eastern European parents, is there any way to identify this generation to see if there are any particular difficulties or experiences?
 - i. RB: 2 part answer. There are stats for number of births where the mother was born outside NI. In Dungannon for example 15% of births are to Eastern European mother. Also Longitudinal Study. No survey cost; track census and match

with births and deaths. We are generating therefore a record of experiences of a sample (28%) of the population. Over time we can track children, spatial residence, occupation, etc. This doesn't stop other initiatives.

ii. Chair: Anything to ensure sample is true reflection of population?

iii. RB: 100 birth dates; fairly representative

cc. Chair: Thank you.

5. Update on Minority Ethnic Development Fund, Fergus Devitt and Ken Fraser

a. FD: Thank you for opportunity to update. Because we're in the middle of potential appeals, may not be a lot of details. Give overview and then answer questions. Received 60 applications across the 3 Tiers. T1 is open to September and we expect more applications. £1.1 million a year over 2-year program. This is very important, first time we can guarantee 2-year program, remaining at same level of funding. Unsuccessful applications can appeal until 30 April. There will also be application feedback. There is a good geographical spread – this was an objective the panel sought to achieve.: Belfast, Lisburn, Craigavon, Armagh, Dungannon, Cookstown, Omagh, Ballymena, Ballymoney, and developing in Derry/Londonderry. Some more work to do with groups. Concerns around duplication, this impacts on Polish and Traveller community applications. Working to set potential money aside still 1.1 mil. Crisis Fund will be on top of 1.1 million. Working through details on that. Happy to take questions.

b. Chair: Will there be a tight monitoring process?

i. FD: 2 stages. Governance: proper constitution, accountability measures

ii. KF: Spend verification as well. Quarterly reporting – what has been done to achieve what they said they would; expect to see x,y,z, if not we will chase this up. Large number we have funded previously, they know how we work and they know how we work. Looking at potential for third party delivery. Procurement process within 6 months, and then takeover monitoring, evaluation, support and assistance. We will get more for our money this way

iii. Chair: Make sure fund doesn't reduce because paying for this as well

iv. KF: Won't come out of 1.5 million. Not enough officials to do the assistance needed

v. Chair: Transparent?

vi. KF: Yes

c. AL: I asked questions in Question Time this week on the administration of the fund. Do all the successful groups know how much they are getting and when? It's already into April and some don't

i. FD: 2 sides: Written answer given that groups would be informed by the end of March. Need to ensure what is asked for is correct amount. No letters of offer yet because still working on that. Feedback from groups indicates they're happy enough with this.

- ii. AL: I can't speak for the groups but for me this is not acceptable for this delay to happen again. Will payment be backdated? It's 16 April already.
- iii. KF: Yes it will be backdated.
- iv. AL: But still don't know the amount.
- v. KF: One reason is groups have overbid and we have to go back and look at one amount is right.
- vi. AL: So if they asked for £45,000 and you go back with £30,000, how will they pay their staff in the meantime? Discrepancy in amounts
- vii. FD: Successful groups will get money. Governance and accountability is important. We are aware of difficulties since 1 April. We are in constant contact with groups.
- viii. AL: We disagree on the process but why is it taking so long. Groups should know well before 31 March, this is a nonsense.
- ix. FD: Groups were told before 31 March whether applications were successful.
- x. AL: But not how much they were getting?
- xi. FD: That's the next process
- xii. AL: Why can't it be done a month ahead? The process timing is wrong, and it must be better
- xiii. FD: Two year funding; had to balance the process of the panel and the needs of the groups. I take your point in an ideal world money would flow from 1 April. This will still be the earliest it has ever flowed, which reflects progress.
- xiv. AL: That just reflects how bad it has been. It's totally unacceptable. Compared with other departments as well.
- xv. FD: Other areas under my responsibility like victims, etc don't even have letters yet.
- xvi. AL: That's bad practice.
- xvii. FD: it's a balancing process.
- xviii. AL: But why wait so long? It was February before the call wasn't it?
- xix. FD: 21 February
- xx. AL: No way you could process everything in 5 weeks effectively
- xxi. FD: Unfortunately we cannot change that now. Money will flow as quickly as possible
- xxii. AL: When
- xxiii. FD: Letters hopefully within next 2-3 weeks
- xxiv. Chair: There are ways to improve then.
- xxv. FD: Definitely learning points. It's now a 2-year process so we have 2 years to plan.
- d. AL: Third party delivery. Reporting? Support or monitoring?
 - i. KF: Idea that it is a helping hand to achieve levels of governance, be more efficient with performance.
 - ii. AL: 3rd party specifically dealing with governance?
 - iii. KF: No, further, help on other things as well. Governance is a concern but not only thing.
 - iv.

- v. FD: Hope 1 organisation will help on capacity building and learning from the sector to help all groups. Governance has been a problem. Looking to disseminate best practice, training, etc
- vi. Chair: Procedures can be overwhelming. It's good to help build capacity or groups can fade.
- vii. KF: many of the people who we want to be on the boards may be recent arrivals who need support.
- e. Chair: What is the timescale for the crisis fund?
 - i. FD: Working through internal process. Should be in place in next few months.
 - ii. Chair: Could it happen now if there was a particular crisis?
 - iii. FD: If people are in crisis and this is called to our attention we could potentially address it
- f. Bobby Rao: I see there are no groups in the Limavady/Strabane area funded
 - i. FD: There are groups in the Omagh/Cookstown area. Tried to match groups to areas in NI of greatest concern
 - ii. BR: Even if the groups were not active in that area?
 - iii. FD: Can only judge on the application. If they don't do what the application says we will monitor.
 - iv. BR: Seems the 'glossy application' is more important than prior work
 - v. FD: All applications were submitted in the same way. Rigorous selection process.
 - vi. KF: High quality of applications but finite money. Substantially fewer applications than previously. Sector has consolidated and professionalized. High standard.
- g. Parajit Sandhu: The fund has already been delayed and now there is the third party process. Will this not delay it even more?
 - i. FD: The third party will come into the picture well into the financial year. It will not delay it
 - ii. PS: Why not increase capacity within the department
 - iii. FD: 2 separate issues. We have the process now of getting out the funding. The 3rd party process will be later and groups will already be in receipt of funding.
 - iv. Chair: let's give the 3rd party process a change and if it doesn't work we can come back to the APG and tell OFMDDFM.
 - v. KF: OFMDDFM expert in policy but not in community development and that's why we are looking for a third party.
- h. Eileen Chan Hu: I was successful in my application but I need to recruit staff. I should have been doing this from April, but how do I do that with a delay in the release of funds? As an employer it's not good practice
 - i. FD: Happy to work with you on that.
- i. Chair: Are you happy for other groups to come to you as well with particular issues?
 - i. FD: If it is very pressing
- j. AL: I would request that the APG be told when the letters of offer are out **ACTION POINT**. We should also be informed of progress on the

3rd party: process, who is appointed, work program, etc **ACTION POINT**. It's good you're going with a 3rd party because it is not your role to capacity build.

- i. FD: More than happy to do that, we would welcome more engagement
- ii. Chair: Tell us when you want to come and we can take it under advisement
- iii. AL: Quarterly engagement?
- k. PY: Despite delay, need to recognize standard of improvement. Already been very much fast tracked. Lessons here for the future. At future meetings perhaps we could hear of the progress of the Race Strategy

- i. FD: Thank you
- l. Chair: Thanks Ken and Fergus

6. AOB

- a. Community Foundation NI conference opportunity, get in touch with CFNI or Secretariat for details. Opportunity for engagement between BME leaders and ex-paramilitaries from communities where hate crime has taken place
 - i. Chair: Vital to engage with this, need to see improvement in relationships
- b. Chair: Good Questions that Matter event in Mid-Ulster. 3 out of 5 panelists in attendance. Lots of AQWs developed out of this, on monitoring, national insurance, treatment of minorities, etc. We will circulate **ACTION POINT** Please send any other questions
- c. KMCL: Race Relations Order in 1997, amended 12 times, which is a piecemeal approach. Assembly voted in 2009 to review. Time for action not. Paper addresses 2 tier protection which is not in line with EU. Hope the APG will take this issue on board vigorously. May be part of Delivering Social Change. An AQW possibly on scope of review, when and how they will consult?
 - i. Chair: Thanks, we will chase this up **ACTION POINT**
 - ii. KF: Clarify: As the AQW stated we will be consulting
 - iii. Chair: No timeline
 - iv. KF: Spring
 - v. Chair: Which year?
 - vi. KF: Working with Racial Equality Panel to take forward.
 - vii. Chair: We will keep pushing you.
 - viii. Joan McGovern: Despite debacle they did listen and give 2 year funding
 - ix. AL: Should be 3 next time!
 - x. BR: For those successful it's good but for those unsuccessful we have to wait 2 years for new opportunity
 - xi. Chair: Appeals? Further applications then considered?
 - xii. KF: Possibility for new apps in T1. Review in one year and see if scope for reopening. Implies others might fall off.

7. Date of Next Meeting

- a. **21 May 2012**
- b. Phoebe and Frances Wong wish to record apologies in advance.