

Equality/Rights & Social Need Division
Room E3.09
Castle Buildings
Stormont
BELFAST BT4 3SR



Office of the
**First Minister and
Deputy First Minister**
www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk

4th June 2007

Dear Consultee

IMPLEMENTING THE DISABILITY DUTIES – CONSULTATION ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL SERVICE DRAFT DISABILITY ACTION PLANS

Background to the Disability Duties and the Disability Action Plans

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended by the Disability Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 2006) requires Public Authorities, when carrying out their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and
- encourage the participation of disabled people in public life.

Public Authorities are also under a duty to submit Disability Action Plans to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland explaining how they propose to fulfil these 'disability duties' in relation to their functions.

Approach to consultation

The Northern Ireland Departments and the Northern Ireland Office are committed to carrying out consultation in a meaningful manner in the development of their Disability Action Plans.

The consultation process commenced in May 2007 when the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister, on behalf of the NI departments and the Northern Ireland Office, hosted a public consultation event in the Park Avenue Hotel.

The report on this consultation event may be accessed on <http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk> . Please let me know if you would prefer the report in an alternative format.

Next steps

Following the consultation event, the Northern Ireland departments and the Northern Ireland Office have prepared draft Disability Action Plans. These draft Plans may be accessed through a link on the website of the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister from 5th June. (<http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk>)

If you have any comments on any of the draft Plans you should send them to the relevant Department. Although the Plans must be submitted to the Equality Commission by 30th June, departments recognise that this may somewhat restrict the consultation process and will take on board any further issues or comments raised after this date (subject to any closing date specified by a department). The Plans will, of course, be subject to periodic review and open to continuous improvement.

A list of contacts for the Northern Ireland Departments and the Northern Ireland Office is attached to this letter.

Alternative Formats

If you require any of the draft Plans in an alternative format you should contact the appropriate department representative who will be happy to arrange.

Yours sincerely



ANNE HUNTER

ANNEX 1

Department	Address/Web	Telephone	Textphone	Fax	e-mail
Agriculture and Rural Development	Equality Branch Department of Agriculture & Rural Development Room 509 Dundonald House Upper Newtownards Road Belfast BT4 3SB	028 9052 4435	028 9052 4420	028 9052 4884	lindsay.hodges@da-rdni.gov.uk
Culture Arts and Leisure	Damian Brady Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure Interpoint 20-24 York Street, Belfast, BT15 1AQ.	028 9025 4245	028 9052 7668	028 9025 8831	equality@dcalni.gov.uk

Department	Address/Web	Telephone	Textphone	Fax	e-mail
Education	Equality Unit Department of Education Rathgael House Balloo Road BANGOR BT19 7PR	028 9127 9934	028 9127 9472	028 9127 9100	Equality@deni.gov.uk
Employment and Learning	John McGuinness Equality Unit Department for Employment and Learning Adelaide House 39-49 Adelaide Street BELFAST BT2 8FD	028 9025 7628	028 9025 7458	028 9025 7611	John.mcguinness@delni.gov.uk

Department	Address/Web	Telephone	Textphone	Fax	e-mail
Enterprise, Trade and Investment	Equality & Diversity Unit Department of Trade Enterprise and Investment Room 61 Netherleigh Massey Avenue Belfast BT4 2JP	028 9052 9650	028 9052 9304	028 9052 9542	irene.mcallister@doeni.gov.uk
Environment	DOE Equality Unit Room 413a Clarence Court 10-18 Adelaide Street Belfast BT2 8GB	028 9054 0813	0289054 0642	0289054 1169	equality@doeni.gov.uk

Department	Address/Web	Telephone	Textphone	Fax	e-mail
Finance and Personnel	Equality Unit Department of Finance and Personnel New Building Rathgael House Balloo Road BANGOR BT19 7NA	028 9186 8173			equality-unit@dfpni.gov.uk
Health, Social Services and Public Safety					

Department	Address/Web	Telephone	Textphone	Fax	e-mail
Regional Development	Brendan Devlin, Head of Corporate Services Unit Department for Regional Development Clarence Court, 10-18 Adelaide Street, Belfast, BT2 8GB	028 9054 0180	028 9054 0642	028 9054 0064	Brendan.devlin@drdni.gov.uk
Social Development	David Malcolm Office of the Permanent Secretary Department for Social Development 5th Floor, Lighthouse Building 1 Cromac Place Gasworks Business Park Ormeau Road BELFAST BT7 2JB	028 90829041		028 9082 9557	david.malcom@dsdni.gov.uk

Department	Address/Web	Telephone	Textphone	Fax	e-mail
Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister	Liz Elliott Personnel Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister 4 th Floor Castle Buildings Stormont Estate BELFAST BT4 3SR	028 9052 2119	028 9052 2526	028 9052 2339	Liz.elliott@ofmdfmni.gov.uk
Northern Ireland Office	Equality Branch Central Management Unit Northern Ireland Office Room 14 Stormont House Annexe Stormont Estate BELFAST BT4 3SH	028 9052 7015	028 9052 7668	028 9052 7050	Donna.knowles@nio.x.gsi.gov.uk