

Implementing EU Equality Obligations in Northern Ireland

The Gender Goods and Services Directive

Response Booklet

We welcome your views as part of the consultation exercise. For convenience this Questionnaire sets out all of the questions in the main consultation document. Should you wish to use the form, it should be returned to the freepost address below:

Ruth Fiddis
Equality, Rights and Social Need Division
Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister
FREEPOST 3900
Room E3.19
Castle Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3SR

Ruth.fiddis@ofmdfmi.gov.uk

Fax no: 028 90523323

Tel no: 028 90523433

Alternatively, you may complete this questionnaire online. A copy of the questionnaire can be accessed at www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/sex-discrimination-and-equal-pay.

You can respond using a different format such as audio tape.

The consultation closes on **21 September 2007**. Please let us have your responses by that date.

To assist us in the collation and analysis of responses it would be helpful if you could please provide us with the following information, using block capitals:

Name:

Organisation: (if applicable)

Address:

Postcode:

Confidentiality of Consultations – Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Department will publish responses following the completion of the consultation process. If you would prefer your response to be treated as confidential, please let us know, stating your reasons clearly. Any automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will be taken to apply only to information in your response for which confidentiality has been specifically requested.

If we are asked to disclose responses under freedom of information legislation, we will take any requests for confidentiality into account. However, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

We will handle appropriately any personal data you provide in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

For further information about confidentiality of responses, please contact the Information Commissioner's Office or see website at:

www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Q(i) In what capacity are you responding?

As an individual

(if so please go to Q1 in the main comments section)

On behalf of an organisation

(if so please go to Q(ii) below)

As an employer

(if so please go to Q(iii) below)

Other (please specify)

Q(ii) Is your organisation:

- A District Council
- An equality lobby group / body
- A statutory body
- Body representing employers
- Body representing financial institutions
- Voluntary organisation
- A Government Department or Agency
- A university
- A college of further education
- A trade union / staff association
- Other (Please specify)

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Q(iii) If you are responding as an employer, how many people do you employ?

- Between 1 and 14 people
- Between 15 and 49 employees
- Between 50 and 249 employees
- 250 employees or more

Annex 1 of the Consultation Document lists all the current exceptions in SDO which still apply in the context of the Directive and sets out where we consider changes are needed.

Q1: Do you agree with the proposals in Annex 1? (see paragraphs 2.9 - 2.11 & Annex 1)

Yes

No

If no, please give details of those you disagree with and your reasons for doing so:

Q2: Do you have any comments on the likely impact of Gender Directive's insurance provisions on providers and/or customers of insurance and related financial products? (see paragraphs 2.13 – 2.14)

Yes

No

Please provide:

Q3 Should the ban on differences due to maternity or pregnancy costs be implemented in December 2007 or deferred until December 2009? (see paragraph 2.15)

December
2007

December
2009

Please explain:

Q4 We would, however, welcome views on this and how it might apply in practice. (see paragraph 2.18)

Q5 Do you think maternity should be defined for the purposes of the SDO provisions covering goods, facilities or services and premises, and if so how? (see paragraphs 2.26 – 2.31)

Yes

No

Please explain how:

Q6 Do you have any comments about the Statutory Equality Duty consideration summarised in Chapter 3 of the Consultation Paper? (see paragraphs 3.1 – 3.3)

Please provide:

Q7 Do you have any comments on the financial implications of the draft Regulations summarised in chapter 4 of the Consultation Paper? A more detailed regulatory impact assessment is available at www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/sex-discrimination-and-equal-pay. (see paragraphs 4.1 - 4.4)

Please provide:

Q8 Do you have any other comments about the proposals in the consultation document or on the consultation exercise itself?

Thank you for completing this response form.