

Equality objectives

- 2.—(1) Each public authority must prepare and publish one or more objectives it thinks it should achieve to do any of the things mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (c) of subsection (1) of section 149 of the Act—(a) not later than 6th April 2012; and
- (b) subsequently at intervals of not greater than four years beginning with the date of last publication.
- (2) An objective published by a public authority in compliance with paragraph (1) must be specific and measurable.

Response - Agree

Publication of information

- **3.**—(1) Each public authority must publish information to demonstrate its compliance with the duty imposed by section 149(1) of the Act—
- (a) not later than 31st December 2011; and
- (b) subsequently at intervals of not greater than one year beginning with the date of last publication.
- (2) In complying with paragraph (1) a public authority's published information must include, in particular, information relating to persons who share a relevant protected characteristic who are—
- (a) its employees,
- (b) other persons affected by its policies and practices.
- (3) Paragraph (2)(a) does not apply to a public authority with fewer than 150 employees.

Response - Agree

Publication

- **4.**—(1) Each public authority must publish the information referred to in regulations 2 and 3 in such a manner that the information is accessible to the public.
- (2) A public authority may comply with a duty to publish imposed by regulations 2 or 3 by publishing the information within another published document.

Response - Agree

Name

Date 14TH April 2011

Secretary of State for the Home Department

Response to specific sections of the booklet

- 18. The new draft Regulations:
 - Change the wording from: "Publish sufficient information to demonstrate its compliance..." to "Publish information to demonstrate its compliance...";

Response: Agree

 Remove the requirement to publish evidence of the analysis a public body undertook to establish whether its policies and practices had furthered the aims Comment [LJMU1]: Would it not be better if this word is changed to "not more than"

set out in section 149(1) of the Act, and remove the requirement to publish details of the information it considered when it undertook the analysis;

Response: Agree

Remove the requirement to publish details of the engagement the public authority undertook with persons whom it considered to have an interest in furthering the aims set out in section 149(1) of the Act, and details of the engagement it undertook when developing its equality objectives

Response: Agree

Equality objectives

20. The new draft regulations:

- amend the requirement from "Public authorities must prepare and publish objectives" to "Public authorities must prepare and publish one or more objectives"
- remove the requirement to set out how progress will be measured.

Response: Agree

Public bodies should only be required to report progress against their equality objectives and not set out how progress should be measured. This will assist with measuring real equality improvements and not whether they follow the right process.

24. The new draft regulations:

 Remove the requirement for public authorities to consider such matters as may be specified by a Minister of the Crown in a written statement to Parliament.

Response: Agree

Priorities are best set by local public bodies.

27. We are committed to developing a set of specific duties that are flexible, proportionate and light-touch, and which support delivery of equal treatment and equality of opportunity for all. The new draft regulations achieve this by lightening, or taking away, some unnecessarily prescriptive requirements, such as the need to publish evidence of analysis or the need to publish details of engagement.

Response: Agree

28. We are keen to get the balance right between appropriate regulation to help meet the equality duty and public bodies being held to account by the public and users for their record on improving equality.

Response: Agree