From: Bennett, Stephen [stephen.bennett@forestry.gsi.gov.uk] Sent: 08 April 2011 10:46 To: Specific Duties Subject: RE: Public Sector Equality Duty - Policy Review Paper Morning Harshbir,

We have read the policy review paper on the revised specific public sector duties with interest.

We have no problem with the draft regulations as outlined in the paper and support the intention to reduce bureaucracy, particularly at this time of reducing resources and staff numbers for the public sector.

However, actually achieving reduced bureaucracy will depend on the guidance that is issued to support the regulations. Previous guidance has actually increased the pressure on the public sector and had the effect of increasing bureaucracy, actually frustrating our efforts to change things in practice in some ways. Therefore, I hope that the new guidance supports and maintains the aim of the regulations to reduce process and procedure.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment.

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