



Dear Sir or Madam

**Equality Act 2010 – Policy Review Paper**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to; 'The public sector Equality Duty: reducing bureaucracy – policy review paper'

Cornwall Council is committed to delivering services fairly to everyone in Cornwall. We welcome your commitment to reducing burdens and bureaucracy on public bodies, moving away from a process-driven approach to a focus on transparency in order to free up public bodies to do what is appropriate for our circumstances, to take responsibility for own performance, and to be held to account by the public. However we have developed good models to ensure that we are accountable and transparent to the people of Cornwall. For example our Equality Impact Assessment model fully informs our policy development process. Without such a structure to ensure the decisions we make are evidenced based, inclusive of all our communities and fair then we would be failing the people of Cornwall. To remove such an assessment would be counterproductive as individuals and communities will find it harder to hold us to account.

We are also pleased to publish our assessments in order to be transparent and to inform Cornwall of not only what decisions we have made but also how we have made those decisions. Cornwall Council does not view this process as a burden or an additional bureaucratic layer but a crucial tool in the decision making process. Therefore whatever decision Government makes on this subject Cornwall Council will welcome the opportunity take responsibility for own performance, and will be pleased to be held to account by the people of Cornwall.

Yours sincerely

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