

**From:** CCI - Jim Hammett [jim@cci.org.uk]

**Sent:** 13 April 2011 13:46

**To:** Specific Duties

**Subject:** The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011 - consultation response

**Response to consultation**

As an association of 200+ charities that deliver residential experiences to over 1 million people in this country each year, I am writing to express our concern about the above regulations.

We deliver many of these experiences in conjunction with schools throughout the UK. In fact about 350,000 school pupils each year attend these residential events during school term time as part of the curriculum. We are concerned about the regulations for two key reasons:

1. There is still a requirement on Local Authorities to 'publish information annually to demonstrate their compliance with the general Equality Duty'. Whilst we support the principles of equality we are concerned and indeed surprised at a time when there are severe cutbacks in money for Local Authorities that this isn't seen as one area where even further cutbacks could be made. Remove this requirement from the regulations all together. This government pledged to reduce paperwork it should go further in cutting bureaucracy.

2. We are also concerned that many Local Authorities will use legislation to discriminate against faith based groups through ignorance of the protected characteristics and misunderstanding of the application of the broader Equality Act. Some explanations and case studies should be introduced for Local Authorities to help them understand the synergy between faith based groups delivering some services and their charitable status and aims. So often we have found this area to be very confused within local government. These regulations go no way to alleviating this problem. If they do go ahead, they could address this specifically. Further guidance should be provided.

Please ensure we receive any circular responses to this consultation and indeed the regulations in general.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Hammett  
Chief Executive  
CCI  
2 Leon House  
Queensway  
Bletchley  
Bucks  
MK2 2SS  
t: 01908 641641  
e: [jim@cci.org.uk](mailto:jim@cci.org.uk)  
w: [www.cci.org.uk](http://www.cci.org.uk)

CCI/UK is registered at the above address as charity No: 326637 VAT No: 478 4978 69 Reg in England: 1822565

This email is intended solely for the person to whom it is addressed. It may contain confidential or privileged information. If you have received it in error, please notify us immediately and delete this transmission. You must not copy, distribute, disclose or take any action in reliance on it. The contents of this email may contain software viruses which could damage your own computer system. We cannot accept any responsibility for any damage you may sustain as a result of software viruses and you should conduct your own virus check.