

Response from Cllr Stephen Pontin, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council.
Re. Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties)
Regulations 2011.

It is my view that these regulations should be dropped altogether, for the following reasons:

- 1, They will add a further layer of bureaucracy to local councils when they can least afford it.
- 2, Local residents do not want yet more political correctness. They are tired of it - including the vulnerable.
- 3, Political correctness gone mad leads to more inequality and unfairness, not less.
- 4, Equality law is often interpreted (wrongly) in a way that undermines both the Christian faith and English culture. (and sometimes Welsh & Scottish too for that matter)
- 5, it is yet more top down targets that this Government promised that we would see less of.
- 6, I think locally elected members of councils are quite capable of tackling inequalities and unfairness at local level without these top down regulations being imposed upon them by central government bureaucrats.
These regulations and specific duties are contrary to the Localism policy.
- 6, Local councils could be open to unreasonable & vexatious litigation that would be costly.
- 7, The direct and indirect costs of implementing these specific duties regulations my lead to a drain on much needed resources that are used to help the vulnerable in these difficult economic times.
- 8, Councils must tackle unfairness & injustice wherever it is found and in it's different forms. Too much equality law is likely to encourage a somewhat blinkered view of fairness and equity. It makes us focus on a limited number of certain minority groups.
- 9, We to pause & rethink our concept and ideas of Equality, before going any further with this.

Many thanks
Cllr Stephen Pontin