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To: Specific Duties

Subject: Response to the revised draft regulations for the Equality Act  
Specific Duties

Response to the revised draft regulations for the Equality Act Specific  
Duties

The Government conducted a consultation exercise about the Specific Duties in 2010. At the time there was much debate about the proposed duties and many carefully considered and detailed responses were made. The resultant draft regulations for the Specific Duties were adequate to the task of supporting public bodies in fulfilling the Public Sector Equality Duty. The newly revised draft regulations are not.

The Equality Duty places significant demands on public bodies and if they are to be given a reasonable chance of meeting the Duty, robust Specific Duties are required to assist them. Removing the requirement to publish information about engagement and about how equality objectives will be met will make it more difficult for public bodies to fulfil the Duty. Furthermore it contradicts the Government's stated aim of increasing accountability and transparency.

Kind regards,

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