



Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

Title of policy/process under consideration

School Meals Policy

Lead department

Corporate affairs

Is this policy/process? (Please tick)

New Existing Revised

Is this a full EIA? (Please tick)

Yes No

Please state the reasons for the above decision.

There is no negative impact

What are the policy/process objectives and aims?

Where a user has income in excess of income support levels they are expected to contribute this excess towards the cost of their care (excluding earned income). In taking this excess into account the ILF has since August 2000 made an allowance towards the cost of school meals for users with dependent children.

This recognises that children with parents on low incomes are entitled to receive free school meals and that by taking away excess income above the level of income support the ILF reduces peoples disposable income to a low level.

Please state the reasons why the changes are taking place.

The rate was originally based on the cost of free school meals in a number of local authority areas in 2000. Each subsequent year the rate was increased in line with the change in the rate of inflation as measured by the Retail Price Index (RPI).

We have now amended this practice and based the rate on the average cost of school meals as identified by the School Meals Trust. This change has initially resulted in increasing the allowance above the cost of the RPI. It is intended that in future the cost of school meals will be in line with the average cost identified by the School Meals Trust if they continue to report on this.

Key			
-2	Significant negative impact	+1	Mild/moderate positive impact
-1	Mild/moderate negative impact	+2	Significant positive impact
0	Neutral impact		
Group	Impact	Notes	
Age	0	The policy ensures that users who are not on income support are not left with less funding than those on income support. The overall impact is neutral as it offsets a policy which may otherwise result in users with children at school being worse off than other users.	
Disability	0	The policy ensures that users who are not on income support are not left with less funding than those on income support. The overall impact is neutral as it offsets a policy which may otherwise result in users with children at school being worse off than other users.	
Gender	0	The policy ensures that users who are not on income support are not left with less funding than those on income support. The overall impact is neutral as it offsets a policy which may otherwise result in users with children at school being worse off than other users.	
Gender reassignment	0	The policy ensures that users who are not on income support are not left with less funding than those on income support. The overall impact is neutral as it offsets a policy which may otherwise result in users with children at school being worse off than other users.	
Marriage and civil partnership	0	The policy ensures that users who are not on income support are not left with less funding than those on income support. The overall impact is neutral as it offsets a policy which may otherwise result in users with children at school being worse off than other users.	

Pregnancy and maternity	0	The policy ensures that users who are not on income support are not left with less funding than those on income support. The overall impact is neutral as it offsets a policy which may otherwise result in users with children at school being worse off than other users.
Race	0	The policy ensures that users who are not on income support are not left with less funding than those on income support. The overall impact is neutral as it offsets a policy which may otherwise result in users with children at school being worse off than other users.
Religion or belief	0	The policy ensures that users who are not on income support are not left with less funding than those on income support. The overall impact is neutral as it offsets a policy which may otherwise result in users with children at school being worse off than other users.
Sexual orientation	0	The policy ensures that users who are not on income support are not left with less funding than those on income support. The overall impact is neutral as it offsets a policy which may otherwise result in users with children at school being worse off than other users.

What alternative policy/process options have been considered to reduce or alleviate any identified impact?

An alternative approach of considering individual costs to users is considered over complicated to administer and would require additional IT development for a limited impact.

What research has been gathered/considered when making decisions regarding the Protected Characteristics?

NA

Are any future actions required for example monitoring or review?

There is an annual review of the policy

EIAB comments/recommendations

The EIAB agreed with the assessment with no recommendations for change on 30 April 2012.

Date form completed 13.04.2012

Signature of EIAB chair Jesse Harris

Date 01.05.2012

Subsequent amendments to policy/process

Date of amendment	September 2013
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Details of amendment
The policy has been amended to bring it in line with an inflationary increase in school meals as recorded by the school meals trust

Reason why a new EIA is not required
There has been no change to the purpose or intention of the policy.

Date of amendment	
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Details of amendment

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