

EQUALITY COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Public Authority Progress Report 2005 - 2006

Template to assist Public Authorities to report on implementation of the equality and good relations duties under Section 75 of the NI Act 1998

The information required from public authorities will be based on the period from **1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006**. Please ensure that it is submitted to the Commission by **31 August 2006**, electronically (by completing this template) and in writing, with a signed cover letter from the Chief Executive or, in his/her absence, the Deputy Chief Executive.

This year's progress report template is significantly different from earlier guidance, reflecting the work that many authorities will be undertaking on their five year review of equality schemes. It is important that the authority reports on what it views as being relevant in terms of progress made on the implementation of the statutory duties from April 2005 to March 2006.

Please enter information at the end of each Section in the template.

Name of public authority (Enter details below)

The Consumer Council Elizabeth House 116 Hollywood Road Belfast BT4 1NY

Equality Officer name and contact details (Enter details below)

Ms Donna Magee Head of Corporate Services
--

Section 1: Strategic Implementation of the Section 75 Duties

- Outline evidence of progress made in developing equality and good relations objectives, performance indicators and targets in corporate and annual operating plans during 2005-06. Your response should include any targets for 2006-07.
- Please provide details of the **direct** resourcing of Section 75 work during 2005–06. This should include staff appointed/directed (*not names*) and details of any budget allocation, to specifically deliver equality scheme commitments.

- Overall responsibility for taking forward the implementation of the Consumer Council's Equality Scheme obligations lies with the Chief Executive of the Consumer Council. The Director of Energy and Corporate Services, represents the Consumer Council in working with the Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment (DETI), the Consumer Council's funding department, on the implementation of its Section 75 obligations. He is a member of the inter-departmental Equality & Diversity Steering Group;
- The Consumer Council's Equality Officer attends the DETI Equality and Diversity working group;
- The Chief Executive arranges for staff to support her in implementing and monitoring the Equality Scheme. The Head of Corporate Service's post includes responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Consumer Council's statutory duties; and
- Despite the Consumer Council's limited budget it has invested much to ensure compliance with statutory Section 75 duties. Whilst there is no dedicated equality unit, the officers named above have committed the optimum resource possible to fulfill their equality duties alongside other roles and responsibilities.
- The Consumer Council Corporate plan 2005-2008 is the culmination of extensive research, feedback and discussions with key stakeholders. One of the plans four themes is "championing and safeguarding the interests of the consumer, particularly the vulnerable". An operational plan objective is to meet the commitments of our equality scheme, promote good relations, and promote equal treatment and equal opportunities. Vulnerable consumers are targeted and their concerns are addressed. Resources are matched and prioritised to areas of greatest consumer need. By working with consumers (and other representatives) The Consumer Council understands what matters to them in a changing,

complex marketplace. The Consumer Council's annual report 2005, documents impacts achieved. It illustrates for example, how equality and good relations is promoted and how diversity is embraced;

- Every job description stipulates the need for staff to be aware of their obligations in relation to equality;
- A five-year review of the equality scheme has been completed by the organization; and
- A Senior Consumer Affairs Officer (Social needs) was appointed in September 2005. The role involves social needs research, policy development and delivery of an outreach strategy targeting 'hard to reach' groups on consumer related issues and drafting reports on the Councils Section 75 work. A working relationship has been established with government departments, voluntary, community and business sectors to achieve the Consumer Councils objectives.

Section 2: Screening & Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)

2a) If a Screening Report has not yet been submitted to the Commission please advise us on the current position with regard to producing this report and forwarding to the Commission.

EQIA Timetable is set out in the Equality Screening Section.

2b) If a Screening Report and EQIA Timetable has **previously been submitted** to the Commission please provide an update (**using the matrices in Appendix A**) of policies subject to EQIA during 2005-06, new/proposed/revised policies screened during 2005-06, ongoing EQIA monitoring activities and 2006-07 EQIA timetable.

In line with the Consumer Council's equality scheme timetable, no screening or EQIA's were carried out 2005/2006. All EQIA's have been completed as previously reported 2003/2004 and 2002/2003. The Chief Executive has other responsibilities for implementing the Consumer Councils Equality Scheme.

Section 3: Training

□ Outline staff and Management Board/Committee training during 2005-06 associated with the Section 75 duties/Equality Scheme requirements (Provide details of types of training provision e.g. general awareness raising, specialist training on EQIA, Screening and Consultation). Provide a summary of any training evaluations and comments on the benefits of such training.

1. The Consumer Council is an accredited Investors in People organisation.
2. The Senior Management Team is trained in Section 75 responsibilities. Equal Opportunities policy training brief is provided to all staff. Policies are made available to all staff via the Intranet.
3. Diversity and Disabled awareness forms part of staff training. The Consumer Council will undergo major changes. It is envisaged that there will be significant expansion in staff members, as the Consumer Council takes on the role as the Consumer representative body for water. Equal opportunities will be part of the induction programme and act as an opportunity to refresh and update existing staff in their responsibilities.
4. Prior to joining the Consumer Council, the Senior Consumer Affairs Officer (Social needs) worked in the community sector for 12 years with Section 75 groups. There is a strong awareness of group needs. Contacts and network exist within these groupings.
5. Two members of Education Section received training in NINIS/ NISRA Deprivation indicator measures (2005) to assist anti-poverty and Section 75 policy development work.
6. All Senior Consumer Affairs Officers attended policy development training. Part of the training included group stakeholder engagement.
7. The Consumer Council's receptionist received deaf awareness training. The Senior Consumer Affairs Officer (Social needs) attended NICEM AGM and workshops to gain an awareness of ethnic minorities needs.

Section 4: Communication

- Provide details of how the authority communicated progress on delivery of the statutory duties during 2005-06.
- Provide details of any review of communication activities during the year to ensure effective communication on progressing the statutory duties.

Generally:

- A **Communication Strategy** was completed in 2004. An EQIA was completed and published on this policy in line with the EQIA timetable. A statement of commitment in fulfilling Section 75 duties is printed in all major publications and most recently, the annual report for 2005-2006;
- **The Consumer Council expanded its stakeholder database and mailing list** to include Colleges, Health Action Zones (HAZ's), Sure Start groups, Ethnic Minority groups, Women's groups, community groups and training providers in North and West Belfast and rural groups;
- For those who speak minority languages and have difficulty in understanding English, information is provided in a number of languages; Examples include Chinese, Polish and Portuguese;
- The Consumer Council's website is 'Bobby A Accredited' and has 'Accessibility Initiative A' compliance. Accessibility will be upgraded on the Consumer Council's new web site. It will meet the standard outlined by government for public web sites, i.e. it will meet Level AA of the WAI Accessibility Initiative Guidelines
- Press releases publicising the work of the Consumer Council are sent to all daily and weekly newspapers depending on the geographic area of interest;
- Hits on our Consumerline Website rose by 16.6% from 1.6 million last years to just over 1.8 million in 2005-2006. Reports, information and press releases can be downloaded from our website;
- Services are joined up and targeted towards those who are most in need. A partnership between the Consumer Council and Trading Standards Service promotes the Consumerline website and telephone helpline; and
- The Consumer Council worked with social partners and others to ensure that any water changes are fair, affordable and sustainable. This is in light of rising household energy and rate bill rises. A unique Government funded £30 million water affordability package for people on benefits was secured. The Consumer Council campaigned vigorously and successfully

to secure protection for vulnerable water consumer groups in the shape of the affordability tariff. A one-year delay was called to the water reform table to get this right for consumers.

Examples of how we communicated with various Section 75 (2005):

Age:

- **Older People** – Two consultations were held through the Consumer Councils Older Persons’ Consumers Panel on transport, food access and the needs of older people; and
- **Youth** –The Consumer Council launched ‘Buy Rights’ DVD – Have Your Say. The DVD is a resource for the Youth Sector and copies of the DVD along with the Youth Curriculum Support materials were sent to 2000 youth workers via the Youth Curriculum Unit’s training programme. The Consumer Council formulated a front line dissemination structure.

Disability:

- A meeting was held with Guide Dogs for the Blind (NI) and the Transport Advisory Committee. Discussions were held on the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) at Great Britain airports and how implementation of scheme in Northern Ireland could benefit guide dog owners in increasing independence and mobility; and
- **DVD Deaf Accessibility.** Produced a signed version of Buy Rights DVD with the British Deaf Association and the Nerve Centre. This will be made available with subtitles in British and Irish sign language.

Racial Groups:

- **Translations** - Produced of Money Tips for Parents publication in Polish, Portuguese and Chinese. Worked in partnership with the Chinese Association and the Parents Advice Centre in disseminating the information. Publications were also sent to all Sure Start programmes in Northern Ireland (English version).

Men and Women in General:

- Conference packs were distributed at two conferences; the Training for Women’s Network’s Young Women Conference - (400 packs were distributed to 16-18 year old women) and the Rural Community Network Women’s Conference (200 Packs were distributed to conference delegates);

- More than 7000 **plane facts** booklets and 13,000 promotional items were distributed to passengers at Belfast City and Belfast International Airports. Following coverage on UTV Life, further requests were responded to;
- **Are You Worried About Money?** a publication designed to provide practical help for people struggling to regain control of their finances was produced in **partnership** with East Belfast Independent Advice Centre; and
- The Consumer Council's Top ten Tips; 'Don't get Snowed Under with Debt this Christmas' was reproduced in local community newsletters. This was used over 20 community and voluntary groups.

Other Section 75 groups:

- Awareness raising phone calls on the Consumer Council's role were made to a series of organisations. These included the Rainbow Project (in an evaluation report of the telephone helpline), BIFHE (Essential Skills) Shankill Community Council and Health Action Zones (HAZ's) in rural areas; and
- Staff talked to the public at the Consumer Council's exhibition stand, when invited along to various events. Examples include the Indian Community Centre's Community Safety Day, Whiterock Carers event, Clanmore Sure Start event and the Disability and Carers events held at Portavogie and Newtownards.

Section 5: Data Collection & Analysis

- Describe any systems that were established during 2005-06 to supplement available statistical and qualitative research, including consideration given to using internal organisational data and external networks.
- Describe any systems established during the year to monitor the future adverse impact of policies that were subject to EQIA.
- Detail any research undertaken/commissioned during 2005-06 to obtain data/information relating to the nine equality categories.

The Consumer Council analyses the impact of its policies and actions and how this impacts on in a number of ways:

- Documented in the Annual Report 2005, a 96% satisfaction rate in the **Consumer Council's complaints handling** among consumers was reported. Since 1st April 2005, the Complaints Team dealt with 27,121 contacts, an increase of 42% on 2004-2005. Of these, 80% involved the provision of information and advice to consumers;
- The Complaints team has a fair, consistent, prompt investigation, decision and redress system in place. This is embedded in well-documented procedures. This ensures fair treatment to current and future consumers, incorporating all Section 75 groupings. Complaints are accepted via telephone, fax, post or e-mail and in person. In some cases, seeking Section 75 information via direct questioning of people using the Complaints facility is difficult and sensitive (for example gathering information on sexual orientation, age, disability). A system is in place to record users' postcodes and the number of male and female users;
- Market research intelligence is recorded on what the queries were about, whether they are recurrent or what is causing them. Complaints volumes are broken down into business processes, for example, what caused them and how improvements can be made. 18 positive changes were achieved 2005-2006 to influence energy and transport providers;
- Analysis of data from the Complaints Telephone Line (Energy, Transport) and information gathered from policy consultations, meetings with stakeholders, voluntary and business sectors, together with qualitative information ensures current issues are reflected in consistent services. The complaints telephone line will be updated and modified when the Consumer Council's role as Consumer representative for water is taken on board;
- The Senior Consumer Affairs Officer (Social needs) updates the Head of Section (Education) in a quarterly written report on the extent of the team's contact with Section 75 and nTSN groups;
- An independent review of the Consumer Skills For All programme was undertaken by Queens University and launched in May 2005. **It was evaluated against key objectives, young people, the vulnerable, business and ethnic groups.** Widespread engagement and participation access to nTSN groups were clearly evidenced. The Consumer Skills For All programme met most of its objectives and was **successful**;
- The Consumer Education Section maintains an Impacts Database. This ensures that users, schools, colleges, section 75 groups, nTSN groups and rural users are monitored and that vulnerable groups who are not

represented are targeted via outreach, direct contact and awareness raising initiatives. A new cross-departmental data-base is currently being developed to aid the work of all departments in meeting it's statutory obligations; and

- The Consumer Council published Northern Ireland's first independent research on Pay as You Go (PAYG) meter usage and self-disconnection by electricity and gas customers. Recommendations were made to energy supply companies that will improve services to PAYG customers, particularly those vulnerable to debt.

Section 6: Information Provision, Access to Information and Services

- Outline what action has been taken during 2005-06 to develop arrangements for the provision of information in accessible formats.
- Detail any initiatives/steps taken to improve access to services.

- **Information in accessible formats:** Systems are in place to ensure that information is available in accessible formats in a timely manner. Information is provided in Braille, audiocassette and large print. Facilities include text phone facilities, brailing machine and a loop system in offices and conference facilities. A text facility with text phone numbers is quoted on all correspondence and business cards. **The Consumer Council's Brailing Machine is used in production of documents to board members and provided at no charge to schools and community groups;**
- All reports published by the Consumer Council include a statement saying, 'The Consumer Council can provide copies of the Executive Summary on disk, in large type, in other accessible formats or in minority ethnic languages'. All are made available via the Consumer Council's website;
- A business section of the corporate website is planned for the following year. This will target the business sector with up-to-date business consumer information and support;
- The Competition Commission's enquiry into the personal current account market is ongoing. This focuses on how competitive the banks' market is and how well it is working for consumers. This enquiry is the direct result of the super complaint submitted to the Office of Fair Trading by Which?

and the Consumer Council. More than 600 people got involved in our Stop Unfair Banking Charges Campaign with 25,000 customers switching banking accounts. This work is continuing. 20,000 Switching Bank Accounts publications were distributed. A specimen letter, downloadable from the web site and available in hard copy format was made available to consumers to help them query banking charges; and

- Information provision, access to information and services are documented in section four and five.

Section 7: Complaints

- Identify, during 2005-06, the number of Section 75 complaints:
 - received by the authority;
 - resolved by the authority;
 - which were not resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant; and
 - which were referred to the Equality Commission.

No Section 75 complaints have been received.

Section 8: Scheme Timetable

- Provide an update of your equality scheme implementation timetable (covering all the scheme commitments), identifying any changes since your previous report. Please detail any planned actions outstanding.

A five-year Equality Review was submitted to the Equality Commission. The Consumer Council is awaiting instruction and feedback from the Equality Commission in order to progress future work.

The Consumer Council will consider policy re-screening where appropriate and how best to integrate Section 75 requirements with existing and emerging government strategies. These are the Anti-Poverty Strategy, DSD Advice Sector Strategy, Review of Public Administration, Ageing in an Inclusive Society, DETI's Money Advice Strategy and A Shared Future strategy. Other areas of interest will be energy market changes and water charges.

Section 9: Consultation, Participation and Engagement

- Provide details of the processes adopted to engage with representative groups during 2005-06.
- Outline measures taken to enhance the level of engagement that were successful and unsuccessful.

- The Consumer Council provides information and advice to every body in Northern Ireland, regardless of Section 75 groupings. Getting markets to work for consumers is an effective and sustainable way to make a difference in peoples lives, especially the vulnerable. It is part of the anti-poverty agenda. The Consumer Council continues to bring the consumer perspective to the social needs debate; and
- The Consumer Council has a range of mechanisms in place to inform, identify, monitor and evaluate it's policies and lobbying strategies. This is achieved through consultations, research and discussions with relevant partnership groups in the government, voluntary, community and business sectors.

Consultation:

- The Consumer Council engaged with key stakeholders, consumer representatives, decision makers and opinion formers. 239 separate meetings were held with key representatives from political parties, government organisations, private sector companies and media. Meetings were held with the largest local political parties at least once. Meetings were held with all NIO ministers at least once.

Participation:

- The Chief Executive participates on the Chief Executives Forum, Education Guidance Service for Adults board of directors (EGSA), British and Irish Ombudsman, Ministers Fuel Poverty Advisory Group, Local Government Task Force Working Group (post RPA), Multi Channel Contract Centre Strategy Project Board and the Access to Government Services Project Team. The Chief Executive is visiting professor in the Faculty of Business and Management at the University of Ulster Jordanstown;
- Led a high profile seminar at Stormont, promoting **financial education**. This is one of the three themes identified in the government's Anti-Poverty agenda. This was organised in conjunction with the Financial Standards Authority and the OFMDFM Central Authority Poverty Unit. It brought together key players from government, education, business, advice and community sectors. It highlighted existing work, gaps and initiated a Northern Ireland Financial Capability Partnership to progress this work; and

- The ethos of '**A Shared Community**' is promoted each year through three competitions held in schools throughout N. Ireland; the Young Consumer Competition quiz, Young Consumer Newsletter and the Schools Poster Competition for post primary, primary, special schools, Irish medium and integrated schools.

Engagement:

- The Consumer Council uses its **website** as a key method of publicising consultations and encouraging input and feedback on our policies. Currently the Consumer Council is redeveloping it's website. This will enable the organisation to further expand it's use in consultation exercises;
- The Consumer Council uses a combination of **outreach initiatives** to target 'hard to reach' groups. An example includes providing information to older people at Young at Heart Exhibition days. Targeted 'Catch on to Consumer Rights' talks and outreach initiatives were delivered to 18 Section 75 groups;
- The Consumer Council carried out research in Northern Ireland to advise our campaign on **food advertising** to children. Responsible Choices, a highly successful **conference on sustainability** was organised. Of the 240 delegates that attended 25% approximately were young people; and
- The Consumer Council worked with the **Review of Public Administration** (RPA) team to ensure that the consumer was placed at the heart of public services reform.

Section 10: The Good Relations Duty

Provide details of steps taken to implement or progress the good relations duty during the year. Please indicate any findings or expected outcomes from this work.

Promoting Equality and Good Relations

- The promotion of equality and good relations is critical in delivering a good-quality public service. As a long-term strategy, the Consumer Council is committed to carrying out its duty under Section 75 legislation and in playing it's part in promoting good relations and sustaining change. In supporting the Government's 'A Shared Future' strategy¹, the

¹ *A Shared Future: Policy and Strategic Framework for Good Relations in Northern Ireland.* OFMDFM. March 2005.

Consumer Council delivers its services to help towards facilitating the development of a shared community in which all individuals are considered as equals, where all people are treated impartially and where there is equity, respect for diversity and recognition of our interdependence;

- The Consumer Council organises competitions on consumer issues for primary, post-primary, Irish medium, integrated and special schools. Winning entries from the Schools Poster Competition was produced as a School Calendar for 2005-2006. Nearly 8,000 calendars were distributed to all primary and post primary schools in Northern Ireland;
- 236 participants attended the Young Consumer Competition final in March 2006. Originally, 2000 students from 39 schools entered the competition. Banbridge Academy won;
- Pupils from 17 schools were awarded prizes in the newsletter project section of the Competition. Bangor Academy and Six Form College Won. Overall, 170 certificates were awarded to participants in the secondary, integrated, Irish Medium and Special Schools. 30,000 of the winning newsletters will be distributed to every post-primary school in Northern Ireland;
- We help to promote civic-mindedness through citizenship education in schools, through lifelong learning and in the dissemination of educational resources. We ensure these reach ethnic minority groups by translation into other languages;
- The Consumer Council serves all of Northern Ireland and not just Belfast. Therefore, rural participation is actively encouraged. This year, 89 per cent of schools that participated in the Schools Poster Competition were from outside Belfast;
- The Consumer Council has developed a consumer rights training course through its outreach strategy. We have targeted communities who are vulnerable or disadvantaged using NINIS/NISRA Super Output Area deprivation indicators. These incremental steps help build local capacity and confidence and provide valuable sign posting in relation to consumer rights and where to turn to for help;
- The development of consumer skills plays a key role in reducing inequalities and the problems experienced by the most disadvantaged consumers. Our research² shows that only around two in five consumers (41 per cent) consider themselves to be well informed about their

² *Consumer Knowledge, Well, What Do You Know?* Consumer Council, 2004.

consumer rights (compared with 70 per cent in England and Wales). While all consumers suffer some form of detriment through lack of consumer skills, the consequences for particularly vulnerable consumers are potentially greater;

- Older, younger and disabled people, those from minority and ethnic groups and the less well off face problems in functioning in society as consumers. In championing and safeguarding the interests of consumers it is considered vital to target and address the needs of vulnerable consumers – reaching those who need the most help; and
- The Consumer Council will continue to work inclusively to develop outreach initiatives and actions. This will ensure that the needs of vulnerable consumers are met.

Section 11: Additional Comments on Mainstreaming

The main aim of the statutory duties is to mainstream equality of opportunity and good relations considerations into the functions of the authority, leading to better policies and service delivery. Please provide any additional information/comments you think may be relevant.

- Vulnerability overlaps with Section 75 groups. Life events such as divorce, unemployment, death of a dependent, those living with a disability, the chronically sick, rural dwellers and nTSN households can be described as vulnerable, regardless which group they fall within. The Consumer Council uses a variety of methods to seek and pinpoint the strain of vulnerability among consumers. Through the Corporate Plan 2005-2008, an effective strategy assists those who are more in need; and
- A joined up approach to service delivery was developed by working in partnership with Consumerline staff at Trading Standards Service. The Consumer Council has mainstreamed equality in all work activities. In particular, a focus on delivery of 'consumer education, skills and information for all' will significantly contribute to the mainstreaming equality duties into the future.

Section 12: Concluding Questions

12A) Does the authority believe its work on implementing the statutory duties during 2005-06 produced positive benefits for the organisation? **YES** × if yes please complete the following

No

	Very noticeably	Noticeably	No real change
i) Increased awareness of equality issues in policy making	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Increased ability to ensure policies are designed and targeted to reflect equal opportunities objectives	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Increased awareness of good relations issues in policy making	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Increased ability to ensure policies are designed and targeted to reflect good relations objectives	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
v) Increased awareness of equality issues in service delivery	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
vi) Increased ability to ensure services are designed and targeted to reflect Section 75 requirements	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12B) Does the authority believe its work on implementing the statutory duties during 2005-06 produced positive benefits for groups within the Section 75 categories?

YES √ if yes please complete the following

No

	Very noticeably	Noticeably	No real change
Persons of different religious belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Persons of different political opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Persons of different racial groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Persons of different age	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Persons with different marital status	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Persons of different sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Men and women generally	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Persons with and without a disability	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Persons with and without dependents	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

QUESTION 12C

If you answered **yes** to **QUESTION 12 B**, for each of the categories where a noticeable or very noticeable change has occurred, please give examples of those changes to policies or practices which have resulted in positive change. If the change was a result of an EQIA please tick the appropriate box in column 3:

	Policy or Practice	Tick if result of EQIA
Persons of different religious belief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NTSN work in North and West Belfast via Catch on to Consumer Rights training and outreach 	
Persons of different political opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobbying political representatives via meetings 	
Persons of different racial groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publications in various ethnic minority languages on request 	
Persons of different age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer Panel work with older people and younger people 	
Persons with different marital status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Persons of different sexual orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Men and women generally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lobbying, campaigning on a range of water, banking and energy issues 	
Persons with and without a disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dissemination of consumer information at carers events 	
Persons with and without dependents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach via Catch on to Consumer Rights 	

Appendix A

Screening & EQIA Update

Please enter details relating to the authority's progress using the following matrices.

i) EQIA Timetable – 2005-06

Title of policy EQIA underway during April 2005- March 2006	Stage (as per Steps 1-7 of EQIA Process) As at end March 2006	If joint-EQIA please state partner authorities	Outline any adjustments to policy intended to benefit individuals from the nine equality categories and outline the relevant categories affected.	Were adjustments to policy a result of <u>A</u>ssessment of adverse impact/ <u>C</u>onsultation, or <u>B</u>oth <i>Please enter A, C or Both</i>	If EQIA decision making stage completed, is amended policy being implemented? <u>Y</u>es/<u>N</u>o
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					

ii) Ongoing Screening Activities 2005-06

Title of policy subject to screening during April 2005- March 2006	If joint policy please state partner authorities	Was initial screening decision changed following consultation? <u>Y</u>es/<u>N</u>o	If Screening completed is policy being subject to EQIA? <u>Y</u>es/<u>N</u>o	If EQIA planned indicate year for assessment
1. Communications				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				

iii) Ongoing EQIA Monitoring Activities 2005-06

Title of EQIA subject to Stage 7 monitoring during April 2005- March 2006	If joint policy please state partner authorities	Indicate if differential impacts previously identified have reduced or increased	Indicate if adverse impacts previously identified have reduced or increased
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

iv) 2006-07 EQIA Time-table

Title of EQIAs due to be commenced during April 2006 – March 2007	Existing or New policy? Please enter E or N below.	If joint-EQIA please state partner authorities	Please indicate expected date of completion of EQIA Stage 6 i.e Decision making stage
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			