

## Revised Equality Scheme - feedback and responses following consultation (7<sup>th</sup> April to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2011)

CCEA is grateful to the following organisations who provided written responses to its revised Scheme:

- Autism NI;
- The Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ);
- Disability Action;
- NICEM.

Comments covered a range of issues and these are summarised and responded to below.

Organisation	Doc ref	Feedback/comment	Response
<b>Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ)</b>	1	Accessibility – 6.3 of draft scheme does not include various alternative formats such as Easy Read and list of audio formats.	Have included Easy Read. CCEA will consider requests for all common audio formats. Within the ECNI model scheme it states ‘where reasonably practicable, formats may include’.
	2	Consultees to be informed when screening forms are posted on CCEA website.	Screening forms will be posted on CCEA website and screening reports sent to consultees on quarterly basis. No requirement in ECNI model scheme to forward screening forms as and when completed to consultees.
	3	Include statement in equality scheme to explain the operation s75. In particular, clear statements on the relationship and difference between the two s75 duties ie equality duty and good relations.	CCEA believes that its revised scheme reflects the ECNI model. However, more detailed information regarding the relationship and difference between the two duties will be included in staff awareness training.
<b>Disability Action</b>	6	Contact details should include textphone.	No action required. Already included.
	7	Remove word ‘ <b>available</b> ’ from 1.3.	Agreed for consistency (CCEA scheme based on ECNI model).

	8 & 9	CCEA should state that the audit of inequalities is a 'living' document that will be amended as evidence is gathered on newly identified inequalities. Where gaps are identified CCEA must commit to commission new research.	Complies fully with the ECNI model scheme. However, CCEA will review the audit of inequalities document and update as necessary.
	10 & 13	Concerns regarding targeted consultation. CCEA must ensure that it monitors and reviews this approach to consultation to ensure that it is open and accountable to all representative and affected individuals and does not result in a 'closed shop' list of consultees.	No action required. Complies with the ECNI model scheme. However, CCEA will monitor and review its approach.
	11	Absence of timeframe of provision of alternative formats.	No action required. It is included elsewhere in document (3.2.3). Complies with the ECNI model scheme.
	12	CCEA should make direct reference to its attitude to and plans for pre-consultation.	No action required. Referenced at 3.2.5
	14 & 27	Do not consider 4 weeks as timely manner re providing alternative formats.	Agreed to shorten timeframe to 2-3 weeks.
	15 & 20	Screening decision should be signed off by member of the Senior Management Team.	No action required. Complies with ECNI model scheme – ie signed-off by the appropriate lead.
	17	Consultations should be planned to ensure they do not take place over holiday periods and CCEA should make a commitment to this.	No action required. Complies with ECNI model scheme 3.2.7.
	18 & 19	Recommends that policy and decision makers receive specific Section 75 training and likewise those involved in deciding on the likely impact of a policy.	This will be included within CCEA's planned Section 75 staff training programme.

	21, 22 23, 24	Availability of screening outcomes made available to consultees as soon as possible.	No action required. Complies with ECNI model scheme (See CAJ response).
	25	Omitted bullet point 1, paragraph 4.29 of model scheme.	Has been included. Omitted in error.
	26	Where training is in conjunction with other bodies and agencies Disability Action believes that CCEA must use it influence to ensure all materials are reviewed.	No action required. Complies with ECNI model scheme. However, CCEA will try to ensure that all necessary materials are reviewed.
	28	Add in telephone number to Complaints Co-ordinator's contact details.	Has been included.
	29	Regarding Complex complaint, include specific timeframe for matters requiring extended period.	Text reflects CCEA's current practice. Agreed to include: Under certain circumstances, if the complexity of the matter requires a longer period, the complainant will be advised of the extended period.
	30	Complaints procedure should outline how it will support the individual to bring his/her complaint (eg interpreter, specialist transport costs, advocacy services)	No action required. Complies with ECNI model scheme.
<b>NICEM</b>	2	Concerns at the two month consultation period.	Consultation lasted for 11 weeks and 2 days. Cut short slightly to ensure revised scheme delivered to EC by 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2011.
	2.2	Draft scheme makes little attempt to describe what CCEA does – varied work deserves fuller description (as in audit of inequalities intro)	No action required at this time. Text included is the main remit of CCEA and is used in formal documents.
	3.3	4.29 add in text omitted from ECNI model ie relevant primary data	Has been included. This was removed in error (See Disability Action response)

<b>Autism NI</b>		As part of their response, Autism NI provided a copy of the Autism Bill and asked that CCEA's Equality Scheme and Action Plan anticipate this legislative change by introducing good practice adaptations for ASD now eg improved visual signage, clearly structured public area delineated by function.	CCEA will consider these adaptations as part of its disability audit/action plan.
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