

Boundary Commission for Scotland

Equality statement

Introduction

The Boundary Commission for Scotland is committed to equality and diversity in its work, and is aware of its responsibilities to meet the statutory equality duties for disability, gender and race that apply to it as a public body.

Secretariat staff and Commissioners are expected to have full regard to these duties in carrying out the functions of the Commission, in their dealings with members of the public and in their relations with colleagues.

Duties

The Commission is bound by the general duty to promote disability equality under the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005, but not by the specific duties, such as producing a Disability Equality Scheme. The general duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity between disabled persons and other persons
- eliminate discrimination that is unlawful under the Act
- eliminate harassment of disabled persons that is related to their disabilities
- promote positive attitudes towards disabled persons
- encourage participation by disabled persons in public life; and
- take steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, even where that involves treating disabled persons more favourably than other persons.

The Commission is bound by the general duty on gender equality under the Equality Act 2006, but not by the specific duties, such as producing a Gender Equality Scheme or an equal pay statement. The general duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment; and
- promote equality of opportunity between men and women.

The Commission is not listed as a public body subject to the general duty to promote race equality under the Race Relations Acts 1976 and 2000, but intends to behave as if it was. The general duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful racial discrimination; and
- promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups.

The Commission's approach

The Commission's duties and powers, including the rules it must adhere to when undertaking boundary reviews, are set out in legislation. The Commission will bear in mind its statutory equality duties when undertaking its functions.

As examples of the Commission's approach, when preparing Local Inquiries, the Commission aims to ensure that venues are wheelchair accessible, and will arrange for language interpretation to be provided if requested.

If you are concerned about the impact that the Commission's work may have on equality issues, or if you have a suggestion on how it might better promote equality in its work please do not hesitate to contact the Commission at:

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