

Implementing the new Equality Bill:

The implications for the public sector and public procurement in Scotland

Tuesday 1st December 2009

King James Thistle Hotel, Edinburgh

CONFERENCE



Keynote Speaker

The Equality Bill – contents and objectives

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THE NEW EQUALITY BILL AND DUTIES

In April this year, the UK Government published its new Equality Bill with the aim of fundamentally changing the delivery of equality and diversity throughout society. The Bill intends to streamline, simplify and strengthen all current equality legislation into one single Act. It focuses not just on the delivery of equality in the workplace but also in the provision of goods, facilities and services.

The UK Government has outlined two frameworks to help public authorities in England and Wales meet the obligations of the Bill – the social economic duty and the specific public sector duties. In Scotland, the power to propose specific public sector frameworks is devolved. The Scottish Government's consultation on the form the specific duties will take in Scotland was launched in September. Some of the proposals are already implemented by Scottish public bodies in relation to the existing equality duties. However others, were they to be adopted in Scotland, would have significant implications for the public sector and public procurement.

With attendees from across the Scottish public, private and voluntary sectors, participants will be encouraged to:

- **examine** the contents, objectives and provisions of the UK Equality Bill
- **explore** the form the specific duties will take in Scotland
- **discuss** what this means for public sector bodies and all those involved in public procurement in Scotland
- **assess** whether equality duties are cost effective
- **consider** the importance of sharing expertise to capture the gains of public sector duties
- **debate** how equality and diversity can be achieved during a recession
- **share** existing examples of good practice in 'mainstreaming' equality

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Speakers and topics include:

The Equality Duty: Putting it into Practice

Yvonne Strachan
Head of Equality Unit,
Scottish Government

The role of the EHRC in the delivery of the Equality Bill

Chris Oswald
Head of Policy and Parliamentary Affairs, Equality and Human Rights Commission

Assessing the cost and cost-effectiveness of specific equality duties

Robin Schneider
Director, Schneider-Ross

The equal pay in local government challenge

Duncan McNeil MSP
Convener, Local Government and Communities Committee,
Scottish Parliament
&

Glyn Hawker
Scottish Organiser (Bargaining & Equal Pay), UNISON

The Equality Bill: a practical guide for public procurement

Alan Bouglas
Director of Development,
Committed 2 Equality

Using procurement to promote equality
Speaker to be confirmed



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