

Equality Impact Assessment Initial Screening - Relevance to Equality Duties

The EIA should be used to identify likely impacts on:

- disability
- race
- sex
- gender reassignment
- age
- religion or belief
- sexual orientation
- pregnancy and maternity
- caring responsibilities (usually only for HR polices and change management processes such as back offices)

1. Name of the proposed new or changed legislation, policy, strategy, project or service being assessed.

Public Bodies Bill: Schedule 5 (Power to modify or transfer functions: bodies and offices) - inclusion of office of the Chief Coroner

2. Individual Officer(s) & unit responsible for completing the Equality Impact Assessment.

Andrew Tucker, Coroner Change Team

3. What is the main aim or purpose of the proposed new or changed legislation, policy, strategy, project or service and what are the intended outcomes?

Aims/objectives	Outcomes
<p>The objective of transferring functions from the Chief Coroner are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an improved service for bereaved people and others who come into contact with the service; - more effective coroner investigations - for these aims to be achieved in a cost-neutral manner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a statutory charter will ensure a greater level of information in the public domain and ensure that those coming into contact with system have a better understanding of the coroner's role and of their own rights and responsibilities - ability to transfer inquests into the deaths of service personnel to Scotland where appropriate; - relaxation of boundary restrictions, will enable a more effective service; - prescribed deaths that a registered medical practitioner must report to the coroner - regulations about the type of training a coroner must receive - coroners powers to report the lessons learned from particular deaths, to prevent similar deaths from happening in future will be put in primary legislation

4. What existing sources of information will you use to help you identify the likely equality impacts on different groups of people?

The main document will be the EIA which was carried out for the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (which provided for the functions that are to be transferred). This identified the following groups as being key stakeholders:

- Bereaved People;
- Coroners, coroner's officers and support staff;
- Pathologists;
- Local authorities;
- Police authorities;
- Faith groups;
- Third sector groups dealing with bereaved people and representing particular interests e.g. providing information focussed on causes of death through illness or accident or circumstances;
- The funeral industry and crematoria;
- Professionals involved in death certification

Although the EIA identified particular issues around post-mortems for reasons of religion or belief in relation of the coroner system, the EIA concluded that the measures proposed would not discriminate (directly or indirectly) against any specific group of people. This was based on the consultation conducted on the draft Bill and other proposals (such as a National Charter). There is no reason to believe that this has changed.

5. Are there gaps in information that make it difficult or impossible to form an opinion on how your proposals might affect different groups of people. If so what are the gaps in the information and how and when do you plan to collect additional information?

No