Consumer Council for Northern Ireland



Public Authority Statutory Equality and Good Relations Duties Annual Progress Report 2015-16

Contact:

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 Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and Disability Action Plan 	As above Name: Telephone: Email:	✓

Documents published relating to our Equality Scheme can be found at:

Current Equality Scheme (due for review in 2016-17):

http://www.consumercouncil.org.uk/publications/consumer-council-corporate-and-equality-plan-2011--2015/

Annual Report and Accounts for 2015-16:

http://www.consumercouncil.org.uk/publications/annual-report-and-accounts-20152016/

Draft Corporate Plan for 2016-21 and Forward Work Programme for 2016-17 (pending finalisation of the Programme for Government and Ministerial approval):

http://www.consumercouncil.org.uk/events/draft-corporate-plan-and-draft-forward-work-programme-consultation-event/

Signature:	at Tolan	

This report has been prepared using a template circulated by the Equality Commission.

It presents our progress in fulfilling our statutory equality and good relations duties, and implementing Equality Scheme commitments and Disability Action Plans.

This report reflects progress made between April 2015 and March 2016

PART A – Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and Equality Scheme

Section 1: Equality and good relations outcomes, impacts and good practice

In 2015-16, please provide **examples** of key policy/service delivery developments made by the public authority in this reporting period to better promote equality of opportunity and good relations; and the outcomes and improvements achieved.

Please relate these to the implementation of your statutory equality and good relations duties and Equality Scheme where appropriate.

Following direction from the NI Executive, and in common with other public bodies, the Consumer Council's Corporate Plan for 2011-15 was extended to cover 2015-16. The Consumer Council's objectives and outputs for the year were set out in our Business Plan for 2015-16, which was approved by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI).

The four core aims of the Consumer Council's Corporate Plan (2011–15) are to:

- Ensure public policy reflects the needs of today's and tomorrow's consumers;
- Champion and protect the interests of consumers;
- Inform and empower consumers; and
- Ensure the Consumer Council is fit for purpose.

Following extensive consumer research and engagement during corporate planning, the following priority groups were identified:

- Low income households;
- Older people;
- Younger people and students; and
- Disabled people.

The Equality Scheme is aligned to the Corporate Plan (2011–15) to ensure consistency and to embed equality considerations into the Consumer Council's priorities, activities, key policies, and services. In the context of the Consumer Council's statutory remit, it is recognised that being fit for purpose requires an unequivocal commitment to equality and good relations. The Consumer Council's work priorities are shaped by its statutory equality duties under Section 75 of the *Northern Ireland Act* and the *Disability Discrimination Act* and *Order*.

The Consumer Council's outreach activities aim to reach out to consumers in NI who need support, with a particular focus on 'hard to reach' consumers and those in greatest need. Our approach is driven by the core aims of the Corporate Plan and the priority groups identified.

The Consumer Council builds equality into all policies, services, and work programmes from the early stages of project planning and policy development.

The Consumer Council responds to government consultations, represents consumers' views, and makes recommendations on public policy changes. Policy responses are available on the Consumer Council's website www.consumercouncil.org.uk.

Key equality outcomes achieved during 2015-16 were:

- Established a partnership with key advice sector organisations (Advice NI, Citizens Advice Bureaux Northern Ireland, and Law Centre (NI)) under the Consumer Rights Initiative NI. This aims to ensure seamless referrals between our organisations, so that consumer complaints can be addressed even more effectively, and provide intelligence on emerging consumer issues. In particular, this should help us target consumers from Black and Minority Ethnic communities who equality monitoring has suggested might be under-represented among users of our complaints handling service. Equality categories impacted: race;
- Continued to be the complaint handling body for Regulation (EC) 1107/2006 and Regulation (EU) 1177/2010, which gives passengers rights to special assistance when travelling by air or by ferry respectively. <u>Equality categories impacted</u>: disability;
- Provided additional support to over 50 vulnerable consumers who had complaints in respect of energy, postal services, transport, or water matters. Equality categories impacted: age and disability;
- In partnership with representative organisations of disabled consumers, conducted audits of the main passenger ferry terminals and made recommendations to improve accessibility to the port operator and ferry companies. Equality categories impacted: disability;

- Produced, in partnership with Autism NI, a factsheet providing information for people with autism when travelling by air. <u>Equality</u> <u>categories impacted</u>: disability;
- Continued to assess the impact of the Network Transformation Programme on Post Office users. The requirements of more vulnerable consumers are a particular focus of our work in this area. Most recommendations promulgated by the Consumer Council were accepted by Post Office Limited. <u>Equality categories impacted</u>: age and disability;
- Engaged directly with over 2,000 consumers to promote awareness of their rights and encouraging switching to save money, with a particular focus on vulnerable and low income consumers. Equality categories impacted: age, dependents, disability, gender, marital status, and race;
- Held discussions with the main banks operating in NI on a range of issues affecting vulnerable consumers, such as bank branch closures, digital inclusion, and the financial abuse of older people. <u>Equality</u> categories impacted: age and disability;
- Worked in partnership with LINK to complete a programme of work to ensure that 75 economically deprived areas have access to fee-free ATMs. A new list of 43 target areas has been agreed with LINK. <u>Equality</u> <u>categories impacted:</u> age, dependents, disability, gender, marital status, and race;
- Targeted younger people to raise awareness of consumer rights issues. We developed a partnership with Girlguiding Ulster to develop the 'Guided Consumer' initiative and resource pack. This was piloted successfully with a group in Bangor, and will be rolled out across NI from September 2016. We also updated key consumer education resources in line with changes in rights that flowed from the Consumer Rights Act 2015. These included the Shop Around website (www.shoparound.org.uk), which is aimed at young people, and CCEA resources for schools. Equality categories impacted: age; and

2

3

3a

3b

the following: NI Digital Inclusion Steering Group; All Ireland Food Poverty Network; LINK's Consumer Council; a roundtable on financial abuse facilitated by the Commissioner for Older People; and the Inclusive Mobility Transport Advisory Committee. Equality categories impacted: age, dependents, disability, gender, marital status, and race.
Please provide examples of outcomes and/or the impact of equality action plans/ measures in 2015-16 (or append the plan with progress/examples identified).
See Q1 (above).
Has the application of the Equality Scheme commitments resulted in any changes to policy, practice, procedures and/or service delivery areas during the 2015-16 reporting period? (tick one box only)
☐ Yes ☐ No (go to Q.4)
Please provide any details and examples:
The changes apply to policy, practice, procedures, and service delivery of bodies that the Consumer Council monitors rather than our own.
With regard to the change(s) made to policies, practices or procedures and/or service delivery areas, what difference was made , or will be made , for individuals , i.e. the impact on those according to Section 75 category?
Please provide any details and examples:
What aspect of the Equality Scheme prompted or led to the change(s)? (tick all that apply)

As a result of the organisation's screening of a policy (please give details):

Participated in a range of policy fora to advocate on behalf of vulnerable consumers. Of particular relevance to equality issues are

		As a result of what was identified through the EQIA and consultation exercise (please give details):
		As a result of analysis from monitoring the impact (please give details):
		As a result of changes to access to information and services (please specify and give details):
		Other (please specify and give details):
	ion 2: s/mea	Progress on Equality Scheme commitments <u>and</u> action sures
Arrar	igemen	ts for assessing compliance (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 2)
Arrar	Were	ts for assessing compliance (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 2) the Section 75 statutory duties integrated within job descriptions during the 6 reporting period? (tick one box only)
	Were	the Section 75 statutory duties integrated within job descriptions during the
	Were	the Section 75 statutory duties integrated within job descriptions during the .6 reporting period? (tick one box only)
	Were	the Section 75 statutory duties integrated within job descriptions during the 6 reporting period? (tick one box only) Yes, organisation wide
	Were	the Section 75 statutory duties integrated within job descriptions during the 1.6 reporting period? (tick one box only) Yes, organisation wide Yes, some departments/jobs
	Were	the Section 75 statutory duties integrated within job descriptions during the 16 reporting period? (tick one box only) Yes, organisation wide Yes, some departments/jobs No, this is not an Equality Scheme commitment
	Were † 2015-2	the Section 75 statutory duties integrated within job descriptions during the 16 reporting period? (tick one box only) Yes, organisation wide Yes, some departments/jobs No, this is not an Equality Scheme commitment No, this is scheduled for later in the Equality Scheme, or has already been done

	ere the Section 75 statutory duties integrated within performance plans during the 15-16 reporting period? (tick one box only)					
	Yes, org	anisation wi	de			
✓	Yes, son	ne departme	ents/jobs			
	No, this	is not an Eq	uality Scheme com	mitment		
	No, this	is scheduled	d for later in the Eq	uality Schem	e, or has already	been done
	Not app	licable				
Please p	orovide a	ny details ar	nd examples:			
As Q4	above.					
In the 2015-16 reporting period were objectives/ targets/ performance measures relating to the Section 75 statutory duties integrated into corporate plans, strategic planning and/or operational business plans? (tick all that apply)						
\checkmark	Yes, thro	ough the wo	ork to prepare or de	velop the ne	w corporate plan	
✓	Yes, thro	ough organi	isation wide annual	business pla	nning	
	Yes, in s	ome depart	ments/jobs			
			ly mainstreamed th	rough the or	ganisation's ongc	oing
	No, the	organisatior	n's planning cycle d	oes not coind	cide with this 2013	3-14 report
	Not app	licable				
Please p	orovide a	ny details ar	nd examples:			
The Corporate Plan for 2011–15, and annual business plans to implement this, include Equality Plans.						
lity actio	n plans/r	measures				
Within	the 2015-	-16 reporting	g period, please inc	licate the nu	mber of:	
Actions comple	ted:	5	Actions ongoing:	3	Actions to commence:	1
	2015-16	Yes, org ✓ Yes, son No, this No, this Not app Please provide a As Q4 above. In the 2015-16 re to the Section 75 and/or operation ✓ Yes, thre ✓ Yes, thre ✓ Yes, in s No, these corpora No, the hot app Please provide a The Corporate this, include Education plans/s Within the 2015	Yes, organisation windown organisation windown organisation windown organisation windown organisation windown organisation organisatio	Yes, organisation wide ✓ Yes, some departments/jobs No, this is not an Equality Scheme com No, this is scheduled for later in the Eq Not applicable Please provide any details and examples: As Q4 above. In the 2015-16 reporting period were objective to the Section 75 statutory duties integrated in and/or operational business plans? (tick all that ✓ Yes, through the work to prepare or de ✓ Yes, through organisation wide annual ☐ Yes, in some departments/jobs ☐ No, these are already mainstreamed the corporate plan ☐ No, the organisation's planning cycle de ☐ Not applicable Please provide any details and examples: The Corporate Plan for 2011–15, and at this, include Equality Plans.	Yes, organisation wide ✓ Yes, some departments/jobs ☐ No, this is not an Equality Scheme commitment ☐ No, this is scheduled for later in the Equality Scheme ☐ Not applicable Please provide any details and examples: As Q4 above. In the 2015-16 reporting period were objectives/ targets/ p to the Section 75 statutory duties integrated into corporate and/or operational business plans? (tick all that apply) ✓ Yes, through the work to prepare or develop the new Yes, in some departments/jobs ☐ Yes, in some departments/jobs ☐ No, these are already mainstreamed through the organization wide annual business planew in the provide any details and examples: The Corporate Plan for 2011—15, and annual busthis, include Equality Plans. Ity action plans/measures Actions ongoing: 3 3 Actions ongoing: 3 3 Actions ongoing: 3 3 Actions ongoing: 3 3 Actions ongoing: 3 3	Yes, organisation wide ✓ Yes, some departments/jobs No, this is not an Equality Scheme commitment No, this is scheduled for later in the Equality Scheme, or has already lease provide any details and examples: As Q4 above. In the 2015-16 reporting period were objectives/ targets/ performance means to the Section 75 statutory duties integrated into corporate plans, strategic pland/or operational business plans? (tick all that apply) ✓ Yes, through the work to prepare or develop the new corporate plans. ✓ Yes, through organisation wide annual business planning Yes, in some departments/jobs No, these are already mainstreamed through the organisation's ongo corporate plan No, the organisation's planning cycle does not coincide with this 201: Not applicable Please provide any details and examples: The Corporate Plan for 2011–15, and annual business plans to this, include Equality Plans. lity action plans/measures Within the 2015-16 reporting period, please indicate the number of: Actions 5 Actions ongoing: 3 Actions to

Please provide any details and examples (in addition to question 2):

We worked with our parent department (DETI) to encourage applications from disabled people in respect of the public appointments process for new Board members for the Consumer Council. As a result, at least one disabled person was appointed out of five new appointees.

The Consumer Council relocated into new, fully accessible premises on the Government Estate (Seatem House) in Belfast city centre on 1 June 2015.

The ongoing equality actions included in the Business Plan for 2015-16 are:

- Providing additional support to vulnerable consumers in handling energy, postal, transport and water complaints as set out in the relevant legislation;
- Representing the views of consumers in respect of changes and implementation of policy on key consumer issues, and in regulated markets, in line with the Consumer Council's statutory remit; and
- Ensuring that consumers benefit from a sustainable post office network where they can access products and services that meet their needs through the Network Transformation Programme – this is due to be completed in 2018.
- Please give details of changes or amendments made to the equality action plan/measures during the 2015-16 reporting period (points not identified in an appended plan):
 - One planned action is carried forward. We had planned to review the equality composition of the Consumer Council's workforce. This was not carried out in 2015-16 because of ongoing voluntary exits and planned restructuring in 2016-17. This will be carried out once these activities have been completed.

9		wing progress on the equality action plan/action measures during the 2015-16 mg period, the following have been identified: (tick all that apply)
	✓	Continuing action(s), to progress the next stage addressing the known inequality
		Action(s) to address the known inequality in a different way
		Action(s) to address newly identified inequalities/recently prioritised inequalities
	✓	Measures to address a prioritised inequality have been completed
Arra	ngement	s for consulting (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 3)
10		ng the initial notification of consultations, a targeted approach was taken – and ation with those for whom the issue was of particular relevance: (tick one box only)
	✓	All the time Sometimes Never
11	2015-10 been so of prom Active access work airpor	
		ership working with Autism NI to develop a factsheet to provide nation for people with autism when travelling by air.
12		2015-16 reporting period, given the consultation methods offered, which ation methods were most frequently used by consultees: (tick all that apply)
	✓	Face to face meetings
	✓	Focus groups
	✓	Written documents with the opportunity to comment in writing
	✓	Questionnaires

	Information/notification by email with an opportunity to opt in/out of the consultation
	Internet discussions
✓	Telephone consultations
✓	Other (please specify): Quantitative survey

Please provide any details or examples of the uptake of these methods of consultation in relation to the consultees' membership of particular Section 75 categories:

The Consumer Council consulted on its draft Corporate Plan for 2016-21 and the Forward Work Programme (FWP) to implement the first year of this plan.

Our approach made extensive use of pre-consultation, which included:

- A quantitative survey undertaken by a research company to identify consumers' priorities for the Consumer Council for the planning period. This sample was stratified to ensure that is was representative of most of the S75 equality categories (age, dependents, disability, gender, and marital status), and other relevant categories (socio-economic class and urban/rural dwellers).
- A telephone survey of current and past users of our Consumer Support service, which helps resolve consumers' complaints. This service is particularly focused on supporting vulnerable consumers (eg disabled and older people). The survey sought their views on the Consumer Council's priorities.
- Meetings with key stakeholders to discuss their views on the Consumer Council's priorities. These included bodies representing various equality categories, such as Disability Action, the Inclusive Mobility Transport Advisory Committee (IMTAC), and Age Sector Platform.

These informed the draft Corporate Plan and FWP, which were then published for public consultation. Key stakeholders, such as Disability Action, Age Sector Platform, and various community networks helped cascade information about the consultation exercise to their contacts.

We also held a well attended public meeting to discuss the draft plan, which included attendees for stakeholders representing equality categories.

The Corporate Plan and FWP were finalised in March 2016 and are awaiting Ministerial approval, once the new Programme for Government has been agreed by the NI Executive.

13	Were any awareness-raising activities for consultees undertaken, on the commitments in the Equality Scheme, during the 2015-16 reporting period? (tick one box only)										
	Ye	es		No		✓	Not a	pplicable			
	Please pro	ovide any det	ails a	and exam	ples:						
14	Was the conly)	onsultation l	ist re	eviewed d	uring t	he 201	.5-16 re	eporting p	eriod? (t	ick one box	ŗ
	√ Ye	es		No		Not ap	plicab	le – no coi	nmitmer	nt to reviev	V
	ngements f me Chapte	or assessing r 4)	and	consultin	g on th	e likel	y impa	ct of polic	ies (Mod	del Equality	′
15	Please pro	ovide the nur	mber	of policie	es scree	ened d	uring t	he year (<i>a</i>	s recorde	ed in screer	ning
	0										
	period u	quality School in the second i	inclu	uding 20	15-16	6, equ	ality	is mains			•
	Norther	of our gov n Ireland Ci assessment	ivil S	ervice a	nd the	•	•				
	_	of the abov essessment			_	-		=		_	ality
		Corporate of the new I				ll be s	creen	ed as the	ey are b	peing fina	lised

16	Please	provide the number of assessments that were consulted upon during 2015-16:							
	0	Policy consultation	s conducte	d with sc	reenin	g assessn	nent pr	resente	ed.
	0	Policy consultation presented.	s conducte	d with ar	n equal	ity impad	ct asses	ssmen	t (EQIA)
	0	Consultations for a	n EQIA aloi	ne.					
17	describ	provide details of the ed above) or other roplicable.						sessme	nt (as
18		ny screening decisio ng concerns raised b					of rele	evance	e) reviewed
	Y	es	No conce raised	erns were	: <u> </u>	No		✓	Not applicable
	Please _l	provide any details a	ind example	es:					
Arrar	ngement	s for publishing the	results of a	issessme	nts (Mo	odel Equ	ality So	cheme	Chapter 4)
19		ng decisions on a po orting period? <i>(tick o</i>			s of any	eQIAs p	ublishe	ed duri	ng the 2015-
		Yes	☐ No		✓ No	ot applica	able		
	Please	provide any details a	ind example	es:					

Arrangements for monitoring and publishing the results of monitoring (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 4)

20 From the Equality Scheme monitoring arrangements, was there an audit of existing information systems during the 2015-16 reporting period? (tick one box only)							
	✓	Yes				No, already taken place	e
		No, scheduled to later date	o take place a	at a		Not applicable	
	Please pro	vide any details:					
	The effectiveness of new equality monitoring arrangements for users of Consumer Support service, implemented in April 2014, was reviewed. changes were required.						
21	=	ng monitoring info	_	nered, was a	any actio	n taken to change/revie	ew any
	Yes		☐ No	✓	Not app	licable	
	Please pro	vide any details a	and examples	:			
	The monitoring data previously showed that people from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) background appeared to be under-represented among the users of the Consumer Support Service. However, our analysis showed that the proportion of users of this service in 2015-16 was consisted with the population at large.						sis
	This is an	area we will c	ontinue to rease referr	monitor a	nd, as s	is treated with cauti et out in Q2, there n vork with the partne	nay
22	•	-	•			ring of policies, during t /adverse impacts previc	
	See Q21	above					

Please provide any details or examples of monitoring that has contributed to the availability of equality and good relations information/data for service delivery planning or policy development:

See Q21 above

Staff Training (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 5)

Please report on the activities from the training plan/programme (section 5.4 of the Model Equality Scheme) undertaken during 2015-16, and the extent to which they met the training objectives in the Equality Scheme.

The Consumer Council engaged Action Mental Health to deliver an awareness raising workshop to staff on mental health.

Please provide any examples of relevant training shown to have worked well, in that participants have achieved the necessary skills and knowledge to achieve the stated objectives:

The above workshop helped staff recognise and deal with mental health issues in themselves and others.

Public Access to Information and Services (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 6)

Please list **any examples** of where monitoring during 2015-16, across all functions, has resulted in action and improvement in relation **to access to information and services**:

See Q21 above. However, given the relatively small sample size, we have not drawn any conclusions about whether the increase has resulted from actions taken by the Consumer Council (eg publishing information on our then new website (launched in 2014-15) on how to make a complaint against a service provider available in a range of languages).

Com	plaints (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 8)
27	How many complaints in relation to the Equality Scheme have been received during 2015-16?
	Insert number here: 0
	Please provide any details of each complaint raised and outcome:
Sect	tion 3: Looking Forward
28	Please indicate when the Equality Scheme is due for review:
	2016-17
29	Are there areas of the Equality Scheme arrangements (screening/consultation/training) your organisation anticipates will be focused upon in the next reporting period? (please provide details)
	Key priorities will be reviewing the Consumer Council's Equality Scheme and, following a restructuring exercise and reallocation of duties, training for relevant staff on S75.
30	In relation to the advice and services that the Commission offers, what equality and good relations priorities are anticipated over the next (2015-16) reporting period? (please tick any that apply)
	Employment
	Goods, facilities and services
	Legislative changes

Organisational changes/ new functions

✓ Nothing specific, more of the same

Other (please state):

PART B - Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended) and Disability Action Plans

1. Number of action measures for this reporting period that have been:					
7	1	2			
Fully achieved	Partially achieved	Not achieved			

2. Please outline below details on <u>all</u> actions that have been fully achieved in the reporting period.

2 (a) Please highlight what **public life measures** have been achieved to encourage disabled people to participate in public life at National, Regional and Local levels:

Level	Public Life Action Measures	Outputs ⁱ	Outcomes / Impact ⁱⁱ
National ⁱⁱⁱ	Designated complaint handling body for Regulation (EC) No. 1107/2006 (access to air travel).	This allows us to take complaints from passengers with reduced mobility and to work with the industry to improve services to disabled passengers. 3 complaints were handled under this Regulation; advice was provided in 9 other cases.	

· canciaminn
r satisfaction
in 2015-16.
r satisfaction
in 2015-16.
disabled Board
pointed out of
that took up
January 2016.
lity monitoring
DETI (now the
the Economy)
ne full extent of
on of disabled
he Consumer
is not known.

Duamata and the	Disable and the control of the	The feature of the
Promote and improve	' '	-
awareness of air passenger	with Autism NI, a	disseminated to Autism NI's
rights among passengers and		members, and to the airport
service providers.	information for people	operators.
	with autism when	
	travelling by air.	
Promote and improve	In partnership with	
awareness of ferry passenger	representative	accepted by the port operator
rights among passengers and	organisations of disabled	and ferry companies.
service providers.	consumers, conducted	
	audits of the main	
	passenger ferry terminals	
	and made	
	recommendations to	
	improve accessibility to	
	the port operator and	
	ferry companies.	
Continued to assess the impact	The Consumer Council	We worked with POL to make
of the Network Transformation	reviewed 97 proposals	sure all the issues were
Programme on Post Office users.	under the Network	identified and action was
The requirements of more	Transformation	taken to address any concerns.
vulnerable consumers are a	Programme (NTP), and	We received assurances from
particular focus of our work in	over 2,000 consumer	POL on a range of issues for
this area. Most	responses to these.	most proposals. In addition,
recommendations promulgated		where improvements were
by the Consumer Council were		required, we discussed these
accepted by Post Office Limited		with POL to address
(POL).		consumers' concerns.

	T	•	<u></u>
			Our discussions led to
			improvements in 55% of cases
			where post offices moved
			location as part of the NTP.
	To improve consumers' skills	39 events direct consumer	The participants at the 'Power
	through the provision of	contact events were held,	to the Pocket' workshops
	information and guidance to	attracting almost 2,000	included representatives from
	help them get the best deal,	consumers.	organisations working directly
	targeting vulnerable consumers.		with disabled people, such as
		The events included five	Action Mental Health,
		'Power to the Pocket'	Disability Action, RNIB, the
		workshops, which	Stroke Association. There were
		attracted over 80	also representatives from
		participants. These are	bodies such as Advice NI,
		'train the trainer' events	Citizens Advice, and housing
		aimed at frontline	associations, which also
		workers from community,	provide support to disabled
		voluntary, advice, and	people.
		social care sectors who	
		are then able to cascade	The response rate to our
		the information and	longitudinal evaluation has
		advice to their service	been limited, but this suggests
		users.	that on average each
			participant used the
			information provided with
			20 clients. We are looking to
			improve our measurement
			methodology for this area.
1	1		

Regional ^{iv}	Not applicable	
Local ^v	Not applicable	

2(b) What training action measures were achieved in this reporting period?

	Training Action Measures	Outputs	Outcome / Impact
1	Staff awareness training on mental health issues	Workshops held November 2016.	All Consumer Council staff trained to recognise and deal with mental health issues in themselves and others.

2(c) What Positive attitudes action measures in the area of Communications were achieved in this reporting period? None

Communications Action Measures	Outputs	Outcome / Impact

2	(d)	What action meas	ures were achieved to	'encourage others'	to	promote the two o	luties:
_	(u)	, willat action incas	ares were acriieved to	circoarage officis	·	promote the two t	autics

	Encourage others Action Measures	Outputs	Outcome / Impact
1	See 2(a) above in respect of the public appointments process.		

2 (e) Please outline any additional action measures that were fully achieved other than those listed in the tables above: None

Action Measures fully implemented (other than Training and specific public life measures)	Outputs	Outcomes / Impact

3. Please outline what action measures have been partly achieved as follows: None

	Action Measures partly achieved	Milestonesvi / Outputs	Outcomes/Impacts	Reasons not fully achieved

4. Please outline what action measures have not been achieved and the reasons why.

		Action Measures not met	Reasons
1	L	Explore options to offer work experience to disabled students and trainees.	Severe budget constraints meant that this option could not be pursued.
2	2	Review the equality composition of the Consumer Council's staff group and develop an affirmative action plan to address any under–representation, as appropriate.	This was not carried out in 2015-16 because of ongoing voluntary exits and planned restructuring in 2016-17. This will be carried out once these activities have been completed.

5. What **monitoring tools** have been put in place to evaluate the degree to which actions have been effective / develop new opportunities for action?

(a) Qualitative

The Consumer Council uses focus groups of consumers to explore key policy issues.

(b) Quantitative

Complaints handling database

Consumer Outlook Index – an omnibus survey conducted every six months.

Other research commissioned to explore key policy issues.

- 6. As a result of monitoring progress against actions has your organisation either:
- made any revisions to your plan during the reporting period or
- taken any additional steps to meet the disability duties which were not outlined in your original disability action plan / any other changes?

Not applicable as such, but the Consumer Council develops a new equality plan each year to address key emerging issues that have been highlighted by research or from our stakeholders.

If yes please outline below:

	Revised/Additional Action Measures	Performance Indicator	Timescale
1			

7. Do you intend to make any further **revisions to your plan** in light of your organisation's annual review of the plan? If so, please outline proposed changes?

Yes, see Q6 above.

[:]

Outputs – defined as act of producing, amount of something produced over a period, processes undertaken to implement the action measure e.g. Undertook 10 training sessions with 100 people at customer service level.

[&]quot;Outcome / Impact – what specifically and tangibly has changed in making progress towards the duties? What impact can directly be attributed to taking this action? Indicate the results of undertaking this action e.g. Evaluation indicating a tangible shift in attitudes before and after training.

National: Situations where people can influence policy at a high impact level e.g. Public Appointments

^{iv} **Regional**: Situations where people can influence policy decision making at a middle impact level

Local: Situations where people can influence policy decision making at lower impact level e.g. one off consultations, local fora.

vi Milestones – Please outline what part progress has been made towards the particular measures; even if full output or outcomes/impact have not been achieved.