Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority



Public Authority Statutory Equality and Good Relations Duties Annual Progress Report

Contact:

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

www.nifha.co.uk

Signature:

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 2021 and March 2022

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 2021-22, 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.

NIFHA is a very small organisation with only 20 full time equivalents (FTE). However, despite its small size we are still fully committed to delivering Section 75, both in terms of its legal requirements and perhaps more importantly, in terms of meeting the spirit of the scheme therefore our Equality Scheme is generally implemented well throughout our organisation.

NIFHA Corporate and Business Plans have actions, targets, outcomes, and measures applied throughout, identified from the inequalities audit.

Quarterly reports are made to our NIFHA Board committee, ensuring their commitment to activities carried out by NIFHA, to better promote equality and good relations.

Section 75 training is provided to all employees and board members with follow up refresher training provided as required.

An Equality checklist is in place to assess the implications of Section 75 statutory duties for all NIFHA Policies and reports of policies screened are published on our website.

Monitoring of NIFHA workforce in relation to age, community background, disability, gender, marital status, caring responsibilities, and racial origin is carried out annually, Monitoring for every recruitment exercise is also carried out. Good practice is well implemented in this area, and policies continue to be reviewed and updated as required. Reasonable adjustments are always taken into consideration and were especially important, during the global pandemic, in order to provide support to our employees.

Ardglass, Kilkeel and Portavogie Stakeholder meetings, continue to be used for consultation on Equality, Good Relations, and Disability issues, also to promote good practice, helping us to achieve better outcomes.

We continue to work with the Fisherman's Mission charity and local community groups, (Covid restrictions permitting) to provide shore-side facilities and support for migrant workers at all 3 harbours. Some of NIFHA's employees volunteer with the Mission and are able to offer assistance, to migrant workers at the harbour and to all involved with the fishing industry, which is especially important during these challenging times.

During outbreaks of Covid 19 amongst foreign crew members living on-board vessels, support was provided by our team in Ardglass who worked closely with the local GP and Health Service to ensure the continued wellbeing of the crew. They distributed tests and facilitated prompt Covid testing. They also assisted a local community group to distribute clothing to foreign crew members.

We encourage better care of the environment and sustainability of our harbours by hosting talks and carrying out beach cleans involving children, their families, and people from the local communities, in partnership with Ulster Wildlife.

The 'Fishing for Litter' scheme was relaunched at our 3 Harbours, to help tackle the marine litter problem in our seas. We offer support to the crews to enable them to bring rubbish caught in their nets ashore, and dispose of it easily, resulting in less damage being caused to the environment, and participants are improving their local area together, through team effort.

2 Please provide **examples** of outcomes and/or the impact of **equality action plans/** measures in 2021-22 (or append the plan with progress/examples identified).

NIFHA Equality Action Plan measures	
Action	Outcome
To develop an education programme in conjunction with local Primary Schools.	Although we had hoped to return to delivering our Happy Harbours school's programme unfortunately, due to ongoing Covid 19 restrictions and staff shortages, we had to postpone. It is hoped a scaled back version will recommence Spring 2022.
To ensure pictogram signage at all harbours is adequate, to provide information to migrant workers if English is not their native language.	Pictogram signs are now used as standard for harbour signage and are updated as required.
To ensure the Annual Return is made to the Equality Commission in accordance with the timeframe set by the Commission.	Annual return submitted within timeframe.
To provide updates on Section 75 to NIFHA Board on an ongoing basis	Updates on Section 75 are provided at quarterly Board meetings
To use the public Stakeholder meetings in Ardglass, Kilkeel and Portavogie as a forum for consultation on Equality to promote Good Practice and achieve positive outcomes.	Stakeholder meetings were again held virtually up to Spring 2022, but we still continued to consult with stakeholders on disability and equality issues. Face to face meetings will recommence as soon as Covid restrictions allow.
To liaise with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and other relevant stakeholders to ensure a "joined up approach" to Equality, Good Relations and Disability issues, in particular, any synergies in terms of the action plans.	Meetings continue to be held six monthly, at which this topic is a standing agenda item.
To implement the recommendations on mitigating actions identified through the EQIA's of the Recruitment Policy.	No mitigating actions were identified for recruitment exercises during this reporting period.

To upgrade the Harbour Master's building at all 3 Harbours	Employee and customer facilities have been upgraded to the highest modern standard. The Harbour Master buildings and adjacent parking are now more accessible to all.
To implement outreach measures in the local communities in Ardglass, Kilkeel and Portavogie, to help to raise the profile of Equality and Good Relations	NIFHA is pro-active in ensuring our commitment to community working is fulfilled by assisting and facilitating local community events when possible and although Covid restrictions affected events in this reporting period, some were still able to take place, e.g. Portavogie Seafood Festival (North Down & Ards Council), which is a celebration of seafood and traditional fishing culture.
	We, as an organisation, and our employees individually, continue to offer support and assistance to migrant workers and those involved with the fishing industry at the Harbours, in collaboration with the Fishermen's Mission.
	Ardglass Coastal Rowing Club requested a safety talk from the Harbour Master. This was delivered virtually and helped continue our involvement with the local community, despite Covid restrictions.
To communicate more effectively with our harbour communities by increased use of social media, i.e. NIFHA Facebook page	
To undertake activities involving local Primary school pupils and youth associations, in partnership with the Ulster Wildlife and local community volunteer groups	Regular beach cleaning days now take place at all 3 harbours (or close by). This initiative enables people to work together as well as highlighting the role the children and their families can play in taking care of their local environment and sustainability of the harbour.

3	policy	= =	edures a	= =		nts resulted in any cl is during the 2021-2	_
		Yes		No (go to Q.4)		Not applicable (go	to Q.4)
	Please	e provide any de	etails an	id examples:			
	our o		es to inc	clude educationa	•	ains strong, we have beach cleans with	•
3 a	delive	ery areas, what c	differen		will be ma	, or procedures and ade, for individuals,	
	Please	e provide any de	etails an	id examples:			
	where	e possible. Bette	er acces		s now offe	es in their workplace red due to the recer arby facilities.	
3b	What apply,	•	quality S	Scheme prompte	d or led to	the change(s)? (tick	all that
		As a result of t	he orga	nisation's screen	ing of a po	licy (please give det	ails):
		As a result of v (please give de		is identified throi	ugh the EQ	IA and consultation	exercise
		As a result of a	nalysis	from monitoring	the impac	t (please give details	s):
		background, d	isability	, gender, marita	l status, ca	n relation to age, aring responsibilities red, following review	, and racial
		As a result of c give details):	changes	to access to info	rmation ar	nd services <i>(please s_i</i>	pecify and
		Other (please s	specify (and give details):			
		Commitment t	o the e	thos of our organ	isation an	d to our Equality Sch	neme.

Section 2: Progress on Equality Scheme commitments <u>and</u> action plans/measures

Arrangements for assessing compliance (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 2)

4		ne Section 75 statutory duties integrated within job descriptions during the 2021-orting 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
		Not applicable
	Please	provide any details and examples:
	•	sibilities are clearly set out in the Job Descriptions for the CEO and HR employee. ob description include reference to NIFHA's Equal Opportunities Policy.
5		ne Section 75 statutory duties integrated within performance plans during the 2 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
		Not applicable
	Please	provide any details and examples:
	employ of imple	sibilities are included in the Personal Development Plan (PDP) for the CEO and HR ee. Line Managers, through Section 75 training, are made aware of the importance ementing Section 75 statutory duties when reviewing and implementing their PDPs ployee PDPs.
6	to the S	021-22 reporting period were objectives/ targets/ performance measures relating section 75 statutory duties integrated into corporate plans, strategic planning operational business plans? (tick all that apply)

	Yes, through the work to prepare or develop the new corporate plan						
	Yes, through organisation wide annual business planning						
		Yes, in s	ome depart	ments/jobs			
	No, these are already mainstreamed through the organisation's ongoing corporate plan						
		No, the	organisatior	n's planning cycle o	loes not coin	cide with this 202	1-22 report
		Not app	licable				
	Please	orovide a	ny details ar	nd examples:			
		_	•	ojectives with Secti to the day to day r	-		the duties to
		-	=	es contain a comm g strategic objectiv		plementing Equal	ity and Good
	"To ensure the work of NIFHA builds wider socio-economic prosperity for the coastal communities which it serves while ensuring that concern for the environment is at the heart of what we do."						
	Meeting the Section 75 plan requirements is also a specific objective of NIFHA's Business Plan. Performance of the Business Plan and Section 75 plan is regularly reviewed by the NIFHA Board.						
Equa	lity actio	n plans/r	neasures				
7	Within	the 2021-	22 reportin	g period, please in	dicate the nu	mber of:	
	Actions comple		7	Actions ongoing:	2	Actions to <u>re</u> commence:	1
	Please provide any details and examples (in addition to question 2):						
	Actions described as on-going relate to those being delivered now and in future years.						
	Groups	taking pa e, Protect	rt in our cor	ops its community mmunity beach clea e Seas, Collins Aero	ans during 20	21/2022 included	: South Down
	We hel	ped the	Portavogie	Regeneration For	um with diff	erent initiatives,	e.g. work on

We offer and receive neighbourly support from nearby Ardglass Marina.

Church's Annual event.

flower planters to enhance the village, beach cleans, etc. We also supported the local

8	Please give details of changes or amendments made to the equality action plan/measures during the 2021-22 reporting period (points not identified in an appended plan):							
		ended our plan to inc Vildlife. (see NIFHA E						
9	In reviewing progress on the equality action plan/action measures during the 2021-22 reporting period, the following have been identified: (tick all that apply)							
		Continuing action(s)	, to progres	s the next stage	e addressing the kno	wn inequality		
		Action(s) to address	the known	inequality in a	different way			
		Action(s) to address	newly ident	tified inequaliti	es/recently prioritise	ed inequalities		
		Measures to addres	s a prioritise	ed inequality ha	ave been completed			
Arran	gements	s for consulting (Mod	lel Equality	Scheme Chapto	er 3)			
10		ng the initial notificat ation with those for v						
		All the time		Sometimes	☐ Nev	er		
11	2021-22 been sc	provide any details a Preporting period, or reened in) to the nee noting good relations	matters rel	levant (e.g. the	development of a po	olicy that has		
	of Covid	ation with our emplo I restrictions, so we deers around mental he	an still prov	0	•	•		
12		021-22 reporting per ation methods were I	, •		•			
		Face to face meetin	gs					
		Focus groups						
		Written documents	with the op	portunity to co	mment in writing			
		Questionnaires						
		Information/notifica	ition by ema	ail with an oppo	ortunity to opt in/ou	t of the		

16

		Internet discu	ssions						
		Telephone cor	nsultations						
		Other <i>(please</i> virtually	specify): Coi	nsultatio	on with	Stakehold	ers durin	g meeting	s held
	-	provide any det n to the consulte		•	-				ultation in
	meeting	cations have be gs were held le rmal customer s	ss to reduce	the ris	k of Cov	id spread	ing. In th	e past we	
	Octobe organis a comm	IA employees and rest and rest and rest are attention's strategical mitment from Notates a plan to	esult of the c objectives IFHA to deli	consult were u _l ver its s	ation ex pdated i tatutory	xercise, ac	ctions red t Plan 202	quired to 22-2026. 1	achieve the This includes
13		ny awareness-ra ality Scheme, d	_						nitments in
		Yes	⊠ No			Not appl	icable		
	Please _l	provide any det	ails and exa	mples:					
14	Was the only)	e consultation li	ist reviewed	during	the 202	1-22 repo	rting peri	od? (tick o	one box
		Yes	☐ No		Not ap	plicable –	no comm	nitment to	review
Sche	me Chap	•							iquality
	://nima.	net/wp-content	<u>t/upioads/iv</u>	<u>IFHASCI</u>	<u>eeningr</u>	<u>keportJan</u> z	<u> 22toJun22</u>	<u>2.par</u>	
15	Please preports	provide the nur):	nber of polic	cies scre	eened di	uring the y	ear (<i>as re</i>	ecorded in	screening
	0								

Please provide the **number of assessments** that were consulted upon during 2021-22:

	0	Policy consultations conducted with screening assessment presented.						
	0	Policy consultations conducted with an equality impact assessment (EQIA) presented.						
	0	Consultations for a	ın EQIA alone.					
17	Please provide details of the main consultations conducted on an assessment (as described above) or other matters relevant to the Section 75 duties: N/A							
18		ny screening decisiong concerns raised b				relevance) reviewed	
	Y	es	No concerns wer	re 🗌	No		Not applicable	
	Please _l	provide any details a	and examples:					
Arraı	ngement	s for publishing the	results of assessm	ents (Mo	del Equality	y Scheme	Chapter 4)	
19		ng decisions on a po orting period? (tick o		lts of any	EQIAs publ	ished duri	ng the 2021-	
		Yes	☐ No	⊠ No	t applicable	!		
	Please	provide any details a	and examples:					
	ngement me Chap	s for monitoring an ter 4)	d publishing the re	sults of n	nonitoring (Model Eq	uality	
20		ne Equality Scheme nation systems during					•	
		Yes			No, a	lready tak	en place	
		No, scheduled t	o take place at a		☐ Not a	pplicable		
	Please _l	provide any details:						

21	In analysing monitoring in policies? (tick one box on		n gathered,	was any	action taken to	change/review a	any
	Yes	× N	lo	☐ No	t applicable		
	Please provide any detail	s and exar	mples:				
22	Please provide any detail 2021-22 reporting period assessed:	•					У
	None						
23	Please provide any details availability of equality and or policy development:	-		_			ıg
	NIFHA works with its em this enables them to have when required, sometim necessary and particularly policy is also to assist staf	time off f nes at sho when an	or family ap ort notice. ' employee r	ppointme We also eturns to	ents, events or u make reasona work following	nexpected absen ble adjustments,	ices , as
Staff	f Training (Model Equality S	Scheme Cl	hapter 5)				
24	Please report on the active Model Equality Scheme) the training objectives in	undertake	n during 20	21-22 , ar			
	Induction training is provinformation on our Equal of the need to proactively	ity Scheme	e and Disab	ility Actio	on Plan. Employ	ees are made aw	
25	Please provide any exam participants have achieve objectives:	-		_			
	NIFHA continues to impl restrictions remaining in Section 75 Equality and D	place, tra	ining was b	ack to o	or better than p	ore pandemic lev	els.

external consultant and completed by the majority or our employees and NIFHA Board members.

Our HR person participated in sessions with the Equality Commission which included STEM Gender Equality, and Public Sector Section 75 Equality Assessing Policies.

Other staff well-being training included: Protecting Mental & Physical Health during Winter, Supporting Employees through the Menopause, Mangers Promoting Mental Health Awareness, and Mental Health First Aid at Work (IOSH accredited).

The variety of the above training enables participants to continue to understand how to deal with issues that may affect their mental and physical health; the implications for our workforce, and how to support employees and customers better.

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

Please list **any examples** of where monitoring during 2021-22, across all functions, has resulted in action and improvement in relation **to access to information and services**:

NIFHA provides access to an Employee Assistance Programme to all its employees. This has been well received and offers help in a wide range of areas. Feedback from employees advises they have found it particularly useful in supporting their mental health.

NIFHA's Facebook page enables us to communicate more easily, issues affecting the fishing and wider harbour communities, it also provides information about NIFHA activities. https://www.facebook.com/NIFHA-1642605456032447/?fref=ts

Complaints (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 8)

27	How many complaints in relation to the Equality Scheme have been received during 2021-22?					
	Insert number here:	0				
	Please provide any details of each complaint raised and outcome:					
	n/a					

Section 3: Looking Forward

28 Please indicate when the Equality Scheme is due for review:

NIFHA's Equality Scheme was reviewed in 2018. The next review is due in 2023.

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)

Training in relation to screening policies is planned for Spring 2022 this will enable us to take a more pro-active approach to reviewing and screening policies.

30	In relation to the advice and services that the Commission offers, what equality and good relations priorities are anticipated over the next 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:					
17	0	1			
Fully achieved Partially achieved Not achieved					

2. Please outline below details on <u>all actions that have been fully achieved</u> 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			
Regional ^{iv}			
Local ^v	When advertising for new Board Members our sponsoring body, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) encourages applications from people with disabilities, as well as women, and people from minority ethnic groups	0 0 11	People from under represented backgrounds can feel more encouraged to apply for and to take up positions in public life

PART B

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

	Training Action Measures	Outputs	Outcome / Impact
1	All new employees and Board Members receive Induction training which includes information on our disability duties and how NIFHA has committed to implementing them	New employees and Board members understand the importance of considering and acting on the needs of people with a disability	They are better equipped to assist all stakeholders and members of the public, including people with a disability
2	The training needs of our employees are identified through Personal Development Plans, now in place for every employee. Any additional training needs that arise outside of this are addressed and implemented as necessary	NIFHA employees understand better that Equality and Good Relations are embedded in the way in which NIFHA conducts its business. They are also able to provide an improved service as they know how to respond to the needs of a person with a disability	No complaints were received during this period from people with a disability. Positive responses to training sessions from participants
3	Mental Health awareness training is provided to managerial and HR staff in order to help them recognise the common mental health issues that can affect workers	The importance of mental wellbeing will be promoted within our organisation	Managers and HR staff will have received accredited mental health awareness training Managers and HR staff will be better able to decide appropriate action to take to support employees, work colleagues and customers

PART B

2(c) What Positive attitudes **action measures** in the area of **Communications** were achieved in this reporting period?

	Communications Action Measures	Outputs	Outcome / Impact
1	Disability duties are explained and promoted at NIFHA stakeholder meetings (one meeting is held in each of the 3 harbours per year)	Where expressed, Stakeholder views on disability matters are recorded and included in NIFHA's planning procedures	Provides outlet for direct communication. Disability access issues are effectively addressed on all capital works projects
2	Equality, Good Relations and Disability duties are reported in our Annual Report	Better communication with our key consultees	Raised awareness for our stakeholders in these areas
3	NIFHA reviews Health and Safety issues to ensure appropriate communication where linguistic barriers exist	Pictorial signage is provided across all our harbours	All stakeholders are able to understand signage
4	Documents can be provided in alternative formats where required.	Documents are more accessible for everyone	No requests for documents in alternative formats were received during this reporting period
5	NIFHA's website	Provides information on our organisation and provides access for potential candidates during recruitment exercises	Increased accessibility for all including easier communication with stakeholders and employees
6	NIFHA's Facebook page	NIFHA can communicate more easily, issues affecting the fishing and wider harbour communities	Increased accessibility for all Provides information about NIFHA activities
7	A text phone facility is provided in Head Office	Ability to communicate with people with a hearing or speech disability	The phone is maintained and available but remains unused since installation

PART B

2 (d) What action measures were achieved to 'encourage others' to promote the two duties:

	Encourage others Action Measures	Outputs	Outcome / Impact
1	Promotion of disability issues with employees through discussion at internal meetings and training	Raised awareness of the need for our organisation to comply with its disability duties.	Our employees are more aware of the issues that people with a disability face and are not only showing a more positive and understanding attitude to their needs but are also more enabled to pre-empt their needs
2	Promotion of disability issues with Stakeholders through discussion at Stakeholder meetings	Stakeholders are now more familiar with NIFHA's duties in respect of people with a disability	Increased awareness of disability issues by the local fishing industry and related businesses
3	NIFHA provides support to employees with disabilities in respect of learning and development needs, career development opportunities; and reasonable adjustments at work	Employee and Board Member questionnaire on equality and disability issues	Effective, reasonable adjustments implemented as required, in the workplace. Improved self-esteem and job performance. Continued support to employees with adult literacy and computer learning

PART B

2 (e) Please outline any additional action measures that were fully achieved other than those listed in the tables above:

	Action Measures fully implemented (other than Training and specific public life measures)	Outputs	Outcomes / Impact
1	Planned upgrade to the Harbour Master's buildings in all 3 harbours	Employee welfare and office facilities upgraded, and access improved	Employees and customers benefit from having access to a building that has been upgraded to the highest modern and regulatory standard
2	To ensure disability duties are taken into account when proposing new or revising existing policies	Considering disability duties when devising new policies or reviewing existing policies is now normal practice throughout our organisation	All new and existing policies are screened
3	To keep under review any employment opportunities for people with a disability	NIFHA continues to offer employment opportunities for people with a disability when possible	Full consideration is given to people with a disability during recruitment exercises

3. Please outline what action measures have been partly achieved as follows:

	Action Measures partly achieved	Milestones/ Outputs	Outcomes/Impacts	Reasons not fully achieved
1				
2				

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

	Action Measures not met	Reasons
1	To provide Customer Care training to all employees	This training was deferred due to Covid-19 restrictions, but we now have a training workshop on 'Having Difficult Conversations' scheduled for Autumn 2022
2		

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

• Consultative – feedback to Harbour Masters and CEO

(b) Quantitative

- Annual Monitoring arrangements are in place for NIFHA's workforce. The responses are reviewed, and action taken where necessary
- Our training plan is reviewed annually, and specific training needs identified and addressed accordingly
- All training courses are evaluated and revised accordingly
- 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?

D	۸	D٦	г	D
ч	А	КΙ		В

Please select

If yes please outline below:

	Revised/Additional Action Measures	Performance Indicator	Timescale
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

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?

No

ⁱ **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.

iii 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

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