

# Equality of Opportunity Committee

## 'Mainstreaming Equality' Policy Review

### Consultation letter

July 2003

Dear Colleague

### Consultation on 'Mainstreaming Equality' Policy Review

The National Assembly for Wales' Equality of Opportunity Committee has decided to undertake a review of how equality can be mainstreamed into the work of the Assembly.

The terms of reference for the review are:

*"To consider how equality can be mainstreamed into the work of the Assembly and the Assembly Government."*

The Committee has adopted the following initial definition of mainstreaming:

*'Mainstreaming' equality is about the integration of equality of opportunity principles, strategies and practices into the every day work of the Assembly and other public bodies. It means that equality issues should be considered from the outset as an integral part of the policymaking and service delivery process and the achievement of equality should inform all aspects of the work of all the individuals within an organisation as they go about their business.*

The Government of Wales Act requires the Assembly to *"make appropriate arrangements with a view to securing that its functions are exercised with due regard to the principle that there should be equality of opportunity for all people"*. It is further required to report annually on the effectiveness of these arrangements.

The aim of the review is to come up with practical steps to help the Assembly meet its duty under the Act, and to ensure that equality issues play a central role in public policy making and service delivery in Wales.

The Committee would welcome initial views this subject; in particular on the questions below:

- Do you support the Committee's definition of 'mainstreaming equality'?
- How effectively are the Welsh Assembly Government and the National Assembly for Wales taking equality issues into account in their work at present?
- How can they be more effective? Any specific examples of good or poor practice would be very welcome.
- What practical steps should be taken to ensure that equality issues are central to policy development and service delivery in Wales?

Please send your comments, preferably by e-mail or on disk, but otherwise in hard copy to:

Lara Date  
Deputy Clerk  
Equality of Opportunity Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

e-mail address: [Equality.comm@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Equality.comm@wales.gsi.gov.uk).

Submissions should arrive no later than **Monday 8 September 2003**.

Please note that the National Assembly normally publishes responses to public consultation. If you do not want your response or name published it is important that you specify this at the end of your submission.

It would also be helpful if you could indicate whether you would be willing to give oral evidence to the Committee.

If you have any queries please contact:

Claire Bennett, Committee Clerk  
Tel: 029 2089 8155  
[E-mail: claire.bennett@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:claire.bennett@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

or

Lara Date, Deputy Clerk  
Tel: 029 2089 8026  
[E-mail: lara.date@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:lara.date@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,

**Gwenda Thomas AM**  
**Chair - Equality of Opportunity Committee**