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Date: 1 December 2017

Dear Consultee

CONSULTATION ON DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DISABILITY ACTION PLAN AND EQUALITY ACTION PLAN

The Department has today launched a public consultation on a draft Equality Action Plan and Disability Action Plan for implementation from April 2018.

Equality Action Plan

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires public authorities, in carrying out their functions, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and regard to the desirability of promoting good relations across the S75 categories.

The Department's Equality Scheme commits the Department to developing an Equality Action Plan which sets out the actions the Department proposes to take to address inequality issues identified from the Audit of Inequalities. The audit gathers and analyses information across the Section 75 categories to identify the inequalities that exist for service users and those affected by the Department's policies. More detail on the Audit of Inequalities is included in the consultation document.

The Department would welcome your comments on the proposed action measures in the Equality Action Plan or views on other ways in which the commitment to the Section 75 duties could be better demonstrated.

Disability Action Plan

Under Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended, public authorities are required, when carrying out their functions, to have due regard to the need to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and encourage participation by disabled people in public life. In addition, under Section 49B public authorities are required to produce a Disability Action Plan (DAP) showing how they propose to fulfil these specific duties.

The Department is consulting on the draft Disability Action Plan and would welcome your comments on the proposed action measures or views on other ways in which the commitment to these duties could be better demonstrated.

How to Respond

The consultation documents have been placed on the Departmental website at <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations> and we would welcome comments by **Wednesday 28 February 2018**. An Easy Read version will be available on-line from Monday 18 December 2017. Responses can be submitted via the online questionnaire, or by post or e-mail to the address below. While a questionnaire for responses has been provided on our website we welcome comments in any format.

If you have any queries regarding these documents, or their availability in a different format, please contact:

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The consultation will close on **Wednesday 28 February 2018**. Responses received after this date will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and with prior agreement from the Department.

Yours faithfully



Judith Tener
Equality and Human Rights Unit