

Title: Creating a single set of specific duties to underpin the new Public Sector Equality Duty Lead department: Home Office/ Government Equalities Office	Impact Assessment (IA)
	IA No: GEO 1019
	Date: 27/06/2011
	Stage: Final Proposal
	Source of intervention: Domestic
	Type of measure: Secondary legislation
Contact for enquiries: Harshbir Sangha (0207 035 8128)	

Summary: Intervention and Options

What is the problem under consideration? Why is government intervention necessary?

Public bodies were previously subject to three duties, relating to race, disability and gender equality. Each duty was underpinned by further duties in secondary legislation ("specific duties"), with different features, timescales and reporting requirements, making the duties burdensome and cumbersome. Intervention is necessary to simplify and reduce the burden on public bodies.

Our analysis indicates that light-touch regulation is required to help mainstream equality into business as usual of a public body and to help them make more transparent and accountable. Without any legislation at all, public bodies will not consistently design policies in a way which meets the needs of diverse communities.

What are the policy objectives and the intended effects?

The objective is to improve equality and efficiency of public services by reducing bureaucracy and improving transparency. The policy has been designed to ensure public sector efficiency savings are made transparently, and do not impact disproportionately on the most vulnerable in society, and to improve life chances of those with protected characteristics. The intention is to encourage the public sector to lead by example and to promote behavioural change in the private and third sectors (which are not directly covered by the duty, unless discharging a public function).

Simplification: replaces three separate sets of regulations with a single less burdensome instrument which minimises formal procedures, bureaucracy and burdens on public bodies.

What policy options have been considered, including any alternatives to regulation? Please justify preferred option (further details in Evidence Base)

Before publication of the policy review document in March 2011 a range of options were considered; having something similar to the previous specific duties; removing the duties completely to replace with more hands-off, outcome focussed duties.

At the final stage two options were considered:

1. having something similar to the three previous duties or race, gender and disability; or
2. having hands-off and outcome focussed duties.

The previous duties on race, gender and disability were highly prescriptive and most public bodies found them confusing and burdensome. We have opted for measures which increase transparency and accountability and focus public bodies on delivering real and measureable outcomes. We propose to require public bodies to be transparent by publishing data about their service delivery in an open and accessible manner that will enable citizens to judge how effectively they are promoting equality through their services.

Will the policy be reviewed? It will be reviewed. **If applicable, set review date:** 07/2013

What is the basis for this review? See PIR. **If applicable, set sunset clause date:** N/A

Are there arrangements in place that will allow a systematic collection of monitoring information for future policy review?	Yes
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Sign-off

I have read the Impact Assessment and I am satisfied that (a) it represents a fair and reasonable view of the expected costs, benefits and impact of the policy, and (b) the benefits justify the costs.

Signed by the responsible Minister: _____ Theresa May _____ Date: _____ 27 June 2011 _____

Price Base Year 2010	PV Base Year 2011	Time Period Years 10	Net Benefit (Present Value (PV)) (£m)		
			Low: 110	High: 205	Best Estimate: 158

COSTS (£m)	Total Transition (Constant Price) Years	Average Annual (excl. Transition) (Constant Price)	Total Cost (Present Value)
Low	7	21	184
High	9	26	233
Best Estimate	8	23	209

Description and scale of key monetised costs by 'main affected groups'

The one-off familiarisation costs will fall entirely to the public sector. The recurring costs are largely due to the costs of public bodies publishing data to demonstrate their compliance with the Duty. The public sector will bear recurring costs of between £21 and £26 million per year. As the specific duties only apply to listed public bodies, the private and voluntary sector will bear no costs, either one-off or recurring.

Other key non-monetised costs by 'main affected groups'

BENEFITS (£m)	Total Transition (Constant Price) Years	Average Annual (excl. Transition) (Constant Price)	Total Benefit (Present Value)
Low	0	40	343
High	0	45	389
Best Estimate	0	43	366

Description and scale of key monetised benefits by 'main affected groups'

The previous specific duties on race, gender and disability have been repealed and the public sector no longer needs to comply with them. This is expected to result in an annual benefit to the public sector in the region of £40 to £45 million.

Other key non-monetised benefits by 'main affected groups'

The Equality Duty requires public bodies to consider the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations when exercising their functions. This may lead to a reduced social cost of inequality – as inequality impacts directly on those who suffer discrimination. However, the costs of failing to address disadvantage experienced by certain people in society are borne more broadly.

Key assumptions/sensitivities/risks	Discount rate (%)	3.5
<p><u>Risk 1:</u> Projected benefits might not be fully realised. Mitigation: - Cost analysis includes all the available evidence and relevant information. - GEO will work closely with the EHRC to ensure duties are properly implemented and enforced.</p> <p><u>Risk 2:</u> Data published by public bodies breach confidentiality or are inaccurate. Mitigation: - Comprehensive guidance from EHRC will help ensure public bodies publish data in a standardised manner which is accurate. - GEO is working with the voluntary sector to develop a toolkit to help voluntary sector/ citizens hold public bodies to account for improving equality.</p> <p><u>Risk 3:</u> Increased transparency could lead to more legal cases being brought against public sector organisations Mitigation: - The regulations will not change enforcement procedures. An organisation can only be challenged by the EHRC for non-compliance with the specific duties. - Increased transparency could lead to increased compliance, as non-compliance or a gap in data will be highlighted. - Government's public data principles will set some high level guidelines for public bodies on publication of the data.</p>		

Direct impact on business (Equivalent Annual) £m):			In scope of OIOO?	Measure qualifies as
Costs: 0	Benefits: 0	Net: 0	No	N/A

Enforcement, Implementation and Wider Impacts

What is the geographic coverage of the policy/option?			Great Britain		
From what date will the policy be implemented?			July 2011 (subject to Parliamentary approval)		
Which organisation(s) will enforce the policy?			EHRC		
What is the annual change in enforcement cost (£m)?			See page 16		
Does enforcement comply with Hampton principles?			Yes		
Does implementation go beyond minimum EU requirements?			N/A		
What is the CO ₂ equivalent change in greenhouse gas emissions? (Million tonnes CO ₂ equivalent)			Traded: N/A	Non-traded: N/A	
Does the proposal have an impact on competition?			No		
What proportion (%) of Total PV costs/benefits is directly attributable to primary legislation, if applicable?			Costs: 0	Benefits: 0	
Distribution of annual cost (%) by organisation size (excl. Transition) (Constant Price)	Micro N/A	< 20 N/A	Small N/A	Medium N/A	Large N/A
Are any of these organisations exempt?	No	No	No	No	No

Specific Impact Tests: Checklist

Does your policy option/proposal have an impact on...?	Impact	Page ref within IA
Statutory equality duties¹ <u>Statutory Equality Duties Impact Test guidance</u>	Yes	See a) consultation document ² published June 2009 b) the policy review paper ³ published March 2011.
Economic impacts		
Competition <u>Competition Assessment Impact Test guidance</u>	No	20
Small firms <u>Small Firms Impact Test guidance</u>	No	20
Environmental impacts		
Greenhouse gas assessment <u>Greenhouse Gas Assessment Impact Test guidance</u>	No	20
Wider environmental issues <u>Wider Environmental Issues Impact Test guidance</u>	No	20
Social impacts		
Health and well-being <u>Health and Well-being Impact Test guidance</u>	No	20
Human rights <u>Human Rights Impact Test guidance</u>	Yes	20
Justice system <u>Justice Impact Test guidance</u>	No	20
Rural proofing <u>Rural Proofing Impact Test guidance</u>	No	20
Sustainable development		
<u>Sustainable Development Impact Test guidance</u>	No	20

¹ Public bodies including Whitehall departments are required to consider the impact of their policies and measures on race, disability and gender. It is intended to extend this consideration requirement under the Equality Act 2010 to cover age, sexual orientation, religion or belief and gender reassignment from April 2011 (to Great Britain only). The Toolkit provides advice on statutory equality duties for public authorities with a remit in Northern Ireland.

² Equality Act 2010: The Public Sector Equality Duty, Promoting equality through transparency: A consultation – August 2010.

³The Equality Act: The Public Sector Equality Duty: reducing bureaucracy, Policy Review Paper – March 2011.

Evidence Base (for summary sheets) – Notes

References

No.	Legislation or publication
1	Schneider- Ross: Assessing the cost & cost effectiveness of the specific race, disability & gender equality duties - June 2009. Web link: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100212235759/http://www.equalities.gov.uk/research_facts_and_figures/research/specific_duties.aspx
2	Equality Bill - Making it work : Policy proposals for specific duties, A consultation – June 2009 http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100212235759/http://www.equalities.gov.uk/news/specific_public_sector_equalit.aspx
3	Equality Bill – Making it work: Policy proposals for specific duties, Policy Statement – January 2010 http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100212235759/http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/psdresp_GEO_MakingItWork_acc.pdf
4	Audit Commission: Under Pressure: Tackling the Financial Challenge for Councils of an Ageing Population, Feb 2010
5	RADAR: Lights, Camera Action. Promoting disability equality in the public sector. Page 39 http://www.radar.org.uk/radarwebsite/RadarFiles/Documents/lightscameraaction.pdf
6	Equality Act 2010: The public sector Equality Duty: Promoting equality through transparency. A consultation: August 2010 http://www.equalities.gov.uk/news/specific_duties_consultation.aspx
7	Equality Act 2010: The public sector Equality Duty: reducing bureaucracy - March 2011

Annual profile of monetised costs and benefits* - (£m) constant prices

	Y ₀	Y ₁	Y ₂	Y ₃	Y ₄	Y ₅	Y ₆	Y ₇	Y ₈	Y ₉
Transition costs	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual recurring cost	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23
Total annual costs	31	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23
Transition benefits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual recurring benefits	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43
Total annual benefits	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43

* For non-monetised benefits please see summary pages and main evidence base section

Evidence Base

PROBLEM UNDER CONSIDERATION

There were previously three separate general equality duties in primary legislation; on race, disability and gender. Each was underpinned by further duties in secondary legislation ("specific duties"). These duties had different features, timescales and reporting requirements, making them burdensome and cumbersome.

On 5 April 2011, a new single Equality Duty brought together the three previous duties on race, gender and disability and also extended to cover age, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy and maternity. The new Equality Duty will follow the same structure as the previous duties and will be underpinned by a number of specific duties in secondary legislation to help public bodies in better performance of the general duty. This document assesses the cost of the draft specific duties regulations, laid before Parliament on 27 June 2011, to certain listed public sector bodies based in Great Britain in relation to their non-devolved functions within Scotland and Wales. They also apply to four cross-border authorities, who exercise some devolved Welsh functions.

POLICY OBJECTIVE/RATIONALE FOR INTERVENTION

The public sector Equality Duty will require public bodies to consider the equality implications in design of their policy and service delivery initiatives. In this way, public bodies will be required to take into account the needs of diverse communities in designing their policies and to consider whether it would be possible to deliver their services in a way which would tackle disadvantage. This results in improved equality outcomes for individuals. Public services which deliver improved equality outcomes are better, more effective public services. A report produced by Schneider-Ross for the Diversity and Equality Task Group of the Public Services Forum reported that

"Expectations of public sector organisations are increasingly higher, with the emphasis on delivering value for money and providing the best service"

The previous equality duties helped organisations understand how their services may not meet the needs of everyone, and provided them the information/tools to refine their approach.

Why is legislation required? What about non-legislative means of achieving these objectives?

Our analysis has shown that while it is no longer necessary to impose highly prescriptive legislative requirements upon public bodies in order to achieve equality objectives. Now is not the time to deregulate entirely. Our analysis in this respect has been informed by the factors outlined below.

The new Equality Duty will enable policy makers to overcome their own behavioural barriers which can result in unintentional bias, and raise and embed self awareness of the problems relating to hidden discrimination and systematic barriers. The Duty will ensure that the barriers are continually addressed and that the consideration of them becomes business as usual over time.

Evidence

Evidence shows that decision-makers tend to assume that their experience is typical¹. If left to their own devices, those designing and delivering public services may be inclined to do so in a manner which is appropriate for people like them. Their view of what is necessary will be informed by their own experience and social background. Unless policy-makers have sufficient information about the experiences of others, they will not make optimal decisions. To help ensure that the optimum solutions are found we need to move public servants to look at evidence on the characteristics and experiences of many different parts of the population. In other words, we need to open the minds of those delivering public services to new and diverse outlooks and perspectives, through which optimal solutions can be found. The duty ensures that those delivering public services must engage with those with different perspectives and experiences, and take into account information about their experiences, when designing services for them. This can overcome biases that stem from limited personal experience of public services, resulting in new and innovative approaches to long-standing challenges that deliver optimum value.

Short Term

A further reason why public servants' decisions may not be socially optimal is that there are internal biases which lead decision-makers to prioritise short term reward over long term gain. If decision-makers were fully rational, they would ensure that public services tackle disadvantage, in order to avoid the long-term costs of an unequal society². However, without the Duty, policy-makers would in many cases choose instead to deliver services to meet only the needs of a non-existent 'generic' citizen, even if this is not 'optimal' in the long-term. At a time of efficiency savings in the public-sector, it is even more important that the Duty is there to ensure that the key decisions regarding public service delivery are not driven only by short-term considerations.

Inertia

When faced with difficult and complex decisions on how to deliver public services, the natural tendency is to maintain the status quo, and carry on in the way we have always done³. The Duty helps to overcome inertia and cause people to examine and question their habits.

Social Norm

One of the factors that influence behaviour is the existence of 'norms'^{4, 5}. One of roles of the Duty is to create a social norm - to shape expectations as to the way in which things should be done – to encourage behavioural change in the private and third sectors. By imposing an injunctive norm on the public sector (regulation), the Duty creates a descriptive norm for the private and third sectors i.e. they will follow the behaviour of public sector in delivering their own services. In order to be effective in creating a social norm, behaviour in the public sector must be consistent – all bodies must take equality into account in performing their functions. There will only be consistency of behaviour across the public sector if public bodies are required by light-touch regulation to set an example by taking equality into account. Evidence shows that while social norms can develop without regulation, this takes generations.

¹ Judgment under uncertainty; Heuristics and biases, Tversky and Kahnemann, 1974

² See, for example, The Spirit Level, R. Wilkinson and K Pickett, 2009

³ Samuelson, W. & R. J. Zeckhauser. (1988). Status quo bias in decision making. *Journal of Risk and Uncertainty*, 1: 7-59 (1988)

⁴ Cialdini R, Kallgren C and Reno R (1991), A focus Theory of Normative Conduct: a theoretical refinement and re-evaluation of the role of norms in human behaviour in *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology*, vol 24, 201-34

⁵ Schultz PW, Nolan JM, Cialdini RB, Goldstein NJ and Griskevicius V (2007) 'The Constructive, Destructive, and Reconstructive power of Social Norms', in *Psychological Science*, vol 18 No, 5, 429-34

If the Duty is effective, it will pave the way for de-regulation in other areas. If the broad policy objectives underpinning the Duty are achieved more specific interventions will become unnecessary. In other words, the Duty will facilitate a move away from detailed regulation in other areas. For example, if the Duty encourages schools to address the disadvantage among black boys in the education system, micro-management as to how they should achieve improved educational attainment becomes unnecessary. This is consistent with Robert West's PRIME Theory, The Theory of Planned Behaviour, Social Cognitive Theory and Social Capital Theory, where the first step is to create the right conditions for behavioural change. If, for example, a local authority, as a result of the Duty, addresses the existence of deprived areas in which the majority of inhabitants are of a certain religion or race, the Government need not intervene through regulation to address this specific issue.

Evidence shows that decision makers are more likely to take action to tackle a problem if they feel they are in a position to influence it⁶. Regulation across the public bodies will reassure individual public bodies that by taking limited action in their sphere of influence to tackle inequality, they are part of a network of public bodies, which are all required to act similarly. This ensures, for example that prisons will tackle disproportionately negative outcomes in the criminal justice system amongst people of particular ethnic minorities, if they know that their efforts will be complemented by efforts in the probation service. Without the Duty, individual bodies might be discouraged from taking action to tackle inequality because the problem is too large for them to tackle alone, and other public bodies, either upstream or downstream, are not required to contribute to the task.

The previous duties relating to race, disability and gender have been a good start and have brought about a positive change in culture and practice in many public bodies⁷ because they are required to consider how their employment practices and service delivery affect the people they serve. However, at the same time performance was variable across the public sector with certain bodies performing better than the others.⁸ The Government has considered all these factors and based on the progress made by the public sector are proposing a balanced package which is driven by data, is flexible, light-touch and proportionate. The Government, however, do not think a stage has come where public bodies will continue the action without the need for a legal requirement. It wants to build on the momentum gained by the previous duties through a light touch regulatory approach to ensure that the need to take into account is embedded into organisational behaviour, and levels of self-efficacy (i.e. the ability to carry out a particular action successfully and that action will bring about the expected outcome) are high before moving to an entirely de-regulatory approach to the achievement of the policy objectives.

The Government has considered different means of achieving these objectives, including having similar duties to those under race, disability and gender and extending them to cover all protected characteristics; relying on alternatives to legislation to achieve these objectives; or having a single streamlined duty, supported by hands-off specific duties in secondary legislation (our preferred option).

Options considered at final stage

1 *Similar duties to previous race, disability and gender specific duties*

Pros:

⁶ Darton A (2008), GSR Behaviour Change Knowledge Review. Reference Report: An overview of behaviour change models and their uses, MHT Publishing Unit, London.

⁷ Schneider- Ross: Assessing the cost & cost effectiveness of the specific race, disability & gender equality duties - June 2009.

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100212235759/http://www.equalities.gov.uk/research_facts_and_figures/research_specific_duties.aspx

⁸ Ibid

- Public bodies already have systems/mechanisms in place to comply with the duties. Public bodies will not, therefore, be required to devote resources to complying with the duties. Nor will they incur familiarisation costs.

Cons:

- The different sets of regulations will impose different requirements, timescales, and reporting mechanisms – making them burdensome.
- The duties will be highly prescriptive and cumbersome.
- Compliance with the duties will incur significant costs.

2 **Simplify through creating outcome focussed duties – Chosen Option.**

Pros:

- *Simplification*: a single set of streamlined and light touch legislation. For instance, research from Schneider- Ross suggested that the requirements to produce equality schemes under the previous duties were considered a significant burden, and public bodies routinely ask external contractors to draw up their equality schemes. Once published these schemes were rarely used but the cost to the public sector of producing the schemes for race, disability and gender was substantial.
- *Outcome focused*: remove bureaucratic requirements and ensure that public bodies focus on achieving improved equality outcomes. These will be more effective in furthering the policy objectives of achieving equality outcomes than the previous requirement to produce equality schemes, in which a public body must describe the processes they will follow in order to comply with the duties.
- *Proportionate and flexible*: do not set targets for public bodies, but require them to consider the information which should lead them to be transparent about the impact they are seeking to achieve.
- *Mainstreams equality into business as usual*: encourage public bodies to address equality considerations as part of their core business, rather than as a separate and additional burden.

Cons:

- *Regulatory burden*: The new package will still impose a regulatory burden, albeit a reduced one compared to the cost of three separate duties.

COST & BENEFIT ANALYSIS

Option 1 – Similar duties to those in existence before April 2011

Due to the short amount of time since the previous duties were repealed, it is assumed that re-introducing similar duties to those previously in place would not realise any significant economic costs or benefits for public authorities as the time period for transition to new adapted working practices would have been very short.

Option 2 - Costs⁹ and benefits of a simplified Equality Duty

Coverage

We identify over twenty five thousand public bodies could potentially be affected by the specific duties forming part of the new equality duty:

Table 1

Detailed breakdown of public bodies	
Type	Number
Central Government	70
Local Bodies	388
NHS Bodies	539
<i>Education Institutions</i>	
Schools ¹⁰	22,381
Higher Education	131
Other authorities	1860 ¹¹
<i>Including...</i>	
Police Forces, Prison Services, Exec Justice Dept, Nationalised Industries, Probation Boards, Inspectorates	122
NDPBs sponsored by UK Govt Departments	730
Total	25,369

Source: Various including Office for National Statistics, Department for Education, Department of Health

Base model used to calculate the costs

To estimate costs of our proposals for the new specific duties we have used the regulatory impact assessment undertaken for the previous gender equality duty as a base model¹², but re-estimated the costs taking into account new information available through the research conducted by Schneider-Ross and discussions with public sector bodies and our equality partners.

⁹ All costs and benefits presented in this section, and throughout the document, have been inflated to 2010 prices using the HM Treasury GDP Deflator series consistent with December 22nd 2010

¹⁰ Comprises all nurseries, primary, secondary, special schools, academies, pupil referral units and city technology colleges in England, 2009

¹¹ Approximately 10% of all other public bodies

¹² Proposal for a public duty to promote gender equality, dti, February 2005

Costs to public bodies: One Off

The one off costs of the new requirements will arise from a personnel manager or a person with responsibility for, or equivalent in smaller public bodies, spending time to familiarise themselves with the new legislation.

We estimate, based on the time estimate used to calculate the familiarisation costs for the general Equality Duty, that public bodies such as health bodies, general bodies (such as police and the fire service), local authorities and government departments would spend between 1.5 days and 2 days familiarising themselves with the new duties. We expect a one-off cost to the public sector of familiarising with the new specific duties to be in the region of £7m to £9m¹³.

Table 2

One off costs of the new duties

	One-off Costs		
	Low	High	
New Specific Duties	NHS Bodies	£149,977	£199,970
	Other Authorities	£258,773	£690,092
	Education Institutions	£6,263,984	£8,351,979
	Local Authorities	£107,961	£143,948
	Central Government	£19,478	£25,970
	Total	£6,800,174	£9,411,929

Source: GEO calculations, ASHE 2009

Note: The specific duties only apply to certain listed public bodies. Private businesses that successfully bid for public sector contracts are not required to comply with specific duties, and therefore no familiarisation costs would be incurred.

Costs to Public Bodies: Recurring

The Government wants specific duties to be truly non-bureaucratic and focused on equality outcomes. To help achieve this it has already proposed to remove the requirement for public bodies to develop and publish equality schemes. Discussions with equality partners and ongoing research suggests that initial development of an equality scheme was considered a significant burden, and public bodies routinely ask external contractors to draw up their equality schemes. The government would like to remove the process of publishing an equality scheme and ask public bodies to be transparent about their data, and publish relevant equality data that would allow citizens to understand the equality outcomes they are trying to achieve, how they will promote equality and hold them to account. We also want public bodies to be transparent about the impact they are seeking to achieve on equality i.e. how they will advance equality.

The annual recurring costs of the new duties will arise from public bodies undertaking steps such as gathering and publishing data in relation to employment and service delivery and any underlying raw data. The public bodies will also need to be transparent about the impact they are seeking to achieve on equality and will be required to publish information that will inform

¹³ The familiarisation costs are calculated as: *Total number of affected public bodies X days required for familiarisation (1.5 for low estimate, 2 for high estimate) X Daily wage for HR manager uplifted for non-labour costs (ASHE 2009 Code 1135 - £25.33 incl. 21% uplift for non-wage labour costs x 7).*

citizens of the areas they are going to focus on in order to advance equality. This will be in form of equality objectives.

The new specific duties do not mandate a particular process to assess the potential impact of policies on equality. However, as the general duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations – it is important that they understand how their policies and practices will affect equalities outcomes, and do that early enough to influence the policy development.

Below we estimate the recurring costs to a range of bodies of complying with the new specific duties. The amount of time spent by an employee will vary depending on the size of the authority, with smaller bodies spending relatively less time, although in specific circumstances, this may nonetheless have a proportionately larger impact on smaller organisations. To estimate the time spent by bodies and the associated costs, we have used evidence from the gender equality duty impact assessment, research undertaken by Schneider-Ross, and one to one interviews with key equality partners.

As the requirement is for public bodies to review their equality objectives every four years, for simplicity the cost of reviewing has been split evenly over each four-year period and the derived estimates described below reflect a constant annual proportion of this cost.

NHS Bodies

We anticipate that large NHS bodies would have a person with responsibility for drawing up and publishing the equality objectives with input from statistical/research support and an administrative assistant over a period of around 8 days per year. We estimate similar task will take a small NHS body around 3 days to complete.

To help better comply with the general duty, and as a matter of best practice, they will also assess the impact on equality of their policies in the design of key policy and service delivery initiatives. Evidence from the Schneider-Ross research and discussions with health sector bodies suggests health bodies will conduct 15-20 (small bodies 5-7) of these each year, taking an analyst around 1 day each on average. There is no requirement on NHS bodies to publish this information.

We also anticipate some larger NHS bodies, may continue to commission research for the purpose of developing and reviewing their equality objectives at an assumed average cost of £20,000 per body per four-year reporting period.

Other Authorities

We anticipate that around 5-10% of other authorities (including non- departmental public bodies) would need to comply with the specific duties. These authorities, as a matter of best practice, and also to better comply with the Equality Duty, will assess the impact on equality. Evidence, from the Schneider-Ross research and discussions with some of these authorities, suggested they will conduct 5-7 of these each year, taking an analyst around 1 day each on average. There is no requirement on these authorities to publish this information.

Education Institutions

Again we assume a school will spend up to 3 days drawing up and publishing the equality objectives. They will also assess the impact on equality of their policies in the design of key policy and service delivery initiatives. We assume they will carry out around three to five of these a year, taking half a day each time. There is no requirement on education institutions to publish this information.

Local Bodies

We anticipate that local bodies would have a person with responsibility for drawing up and publishing equality objectives with input from statistical/research support and an administrative assistant over a period of 8 days per year.

To help better comply with the general duty, they will also assess the impact on equality of their policies in the design of key policy and service delivery initiatives. Evidence from the Schneider-Ross research and discussions with local authorities suggests that they will conduct 15-20 of these each year, taking an analyst around 1 day each on average. There is no requirement on local bodies to publish this information.

We also anticipate local bodies may continue to commission research for the purpose of developing and reviewing their equality objectives at an assumed average cost of £20,000 per authority per four-year reporting period.

Central Government

We anticipate that Central Government departments would have a person with responsibility for drawing up and publishing equality objectives with input from statistical/research support and an administrative assistant over a period of 8 days per year¹⁴.

Central Government departments will also assess the impact on equality of their policies in the design of key policy and service delivery initiatives. We assume there will be around 35-40 changes a year - although for bigger departments this may be higher - requiring an assessment, with an analyst spending up to a day to complete¹⁵. There is no requirement on Central Government to publish this information.

We also anticipate Central Government may continue to commission research for the purpose of developing and reviewing their equality objectives at an assumed average cost of £20,000 per authority per four-year reporting period.

The table below shows the total recurring costs of the specific duties summarised by main authority type:

Table 3

Recurring Costs of the new duties

	Annually recurring costs		
	Low	High	
New Specific Duties	NHS Bodies	£767,871	£933,952
	Other Authorities	£1,079,191	£2,702,716
	Education Institutions	£14,594,016	£17,888,119
	Local Authorities	£3,358,300	£3,642,174
	Central Government	£810,736	£861,950
	Total	£20,610,115	£26,028,912

¹⁴ Daily wage costs: ASHE 2009 Codes 1135, 4215, 232 - £25.33, £13.24, £19.98 incl. 21% uplift for non-wage labour costs respectively x 7

¹⁵ ASHE Code 232

Benefits to Public Bodies

The previous specific race, disability and gender duties imposed ongoing costs to all public bodies. The new integrated equality duty is intended to be outcome focussed and proportionate, avoiding unnecessary burdens on public bodies and reflecting more closely what can be reasonably expected from smaller public bodies. The Government therefore believe that the new proposed specific duties will impose smaller ongoing costs on public bodies, creating an annual saving for them. This is detailed as a benefit below.

The majority of the costs of the race, disability and gender duties arose from reporting on progress, setting process for assessing the impact on equality and reviewing and revising their equality schemes every three years.

Using new information¹⁶, to update the previous regulatory impact assessments for the previous duties, we estimated the cost of complying with the race, disability and gender duties as:

Table 4

Annually Recurring Benefits			
		Low	High
Recurring benefit of removing the three separate equality duties	NHS Bodies	£1,201,369	£1,360,373
	Other Authorities	£1,846,987	£3,693,975
	Education Institutions	£31,713,774	£31,713,774
	Local Authorities	£3,509,545	£6,861,207
	Central Government	£1,616,902	£1,616,902
	Total	£39,888,577	£ 45,246,230

Source: GEO calculations based on ASHE 2009, research by Schneider-Ross and other sources

(A detailed comparison of the assumptions from which the costs of the new and previous duties are derived is provided in table 7 in Annex1)

Wider Benefits

The previous three duties straight-jacketed public bodies into seeing people from the prisms of race, gender and disability, and further constrained them to the reporting requirements which may not achieve an equality outcome or provide a bespoke solution to the needs of customers. The new duties are designed to ensure that public bodies take account of the needs of disadvantaged individuals, both as employers and in the development and delivery of public services. They will help highlight, and make public bodies consider, hidden discrimination, systematic barriers, and shifted them towards considering the available evidence leading them to take action. This will result in improved, more efficient, public services, and reduce social costs of inequality. Though it is not possible to robustly monetise these benefits, these are nonetheless significant.

Net Benefits – What this means for public bodies

The net benefits of the new duties are primarily as a result of reduced burdens for public sector organisations in complying, compared with the previous separate duties, which had different timescales and reporting requirements.

Year 1

¹⁶ Including updated background data (wage costs and number of public bodies) and improved assumptions following further discussions with stakeholders

In year 1 the measurable net benefits accruing to public sector bodies will be the costs of previous duties less familiarisation and the recurring costs of the new duties.

Table 5

New Specific Duties	Net Benefits Year 1	
	Low	High
	NHS Bodies	£67,448
Other Authorities	-£1,545,791	£2,356,011
Education Institutions	£5,473,675	£10,855,773
Local Authorities	-£276,577	£3,394,945
Central Government	£728,981	£786,688
Total	£4,447,736	£17,835,941

Source: Calculations based on Tables 2, 3 and 4

Year 2 onwards

From year 2 onwards the net benefits will be the costs of the previous duties less the recurring costs of the new duties, i.e. the cost reduction of switching from the previous to the new duties. These net benefits are set out in the table below.

Table 6

New Specific Duties	Net Benefits Year 2 onwards	
	Low	High
	NHS Bodies	£267,417
Other Authorities	-£855,729	£2,614,784
Education Institutions	£13,825,654	£17,119,758
Local Authorities	-£132,629	£3,502,907
Central Government	£754,951	£806,166
Totals	£13,859,665	£24,636,115

Source: Calculations based on Tables 3 and 4

Risks and sensitivities

Risks	Mitigation
Projected benefits might not be fully realised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cost analysis includes all the available evidence and relevant information. - GEO will work closely with the EHRC to ensure duties are properly implemented and enforced.
Data published by public bodies breach confidentiality or is inaccurate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comprehensive guidance from EHRC will help ensure public bodies publish data in a standardised manner which is accurate. - GEO is working with the voluntary sector to develop a toolkit to help voluntary sector/ citizens hold public bodies to account for improving equality.
Increased transparency could lead to more legal cases being brought against public sector organisations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The regulations will not change enforcement procedures. An organisation can only be challenged by the EHRC for non-compliance with the specific duties. - Increased transparency could lead to increased compliance, as non-compliance or a gap in data will be highlighted. - Government's public data principles will set some high level guidelines for public bodies on publication of the data.

Enforcement

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is the regulatory body with responsibility for enforcing the equality and human rights enactments in accordance with its statutory duty. The duties include reducing inequality, eliminating discrimination, strengthening good relations between people and promoting and protecting human rights. The EHRC is independent of Government and can choose when and which interventions to make in respect of assessing compliance with the equality duty. The Commission manages its own budget and its priorities as set out in its business plan¹⁷. Therefore, it has not been possible to calculate the exact figure of the change in enforcement costs of the EHRC at this moment in time. However, given the drive by the Government to get public data into the public domain, and to rely on citizens, rather than regulators, to judge the performance of public bodies, it can be assumed that the cost to the EHRC will be less compared to the cost of enforcing the previous duties on race, gender and disability.

Also, given the data will be in the public domain it will be easy for the Commission to review the information and check compliance, as opposed to request the data first and then review. Also given the fact that the transparency requirements are linked explicitly to the general duty to have due regard to the need to achieve the outcomes set out in the legislation means that the proposed specific duties will enable the Commission to issue compliance notices which have a more direct link to the performance of the duties general duty.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Annex 2, Post Implementation Review, includes information on monitoring and evaluation of the Equality Duty.

Summary

Option 2 was chosen as the measures will not only reduce burdens and bureaucracy, they will result in increased transparency and better equality outcomes. Our proposals for the new specific duties will result in a net benefit to the public sector of between £4m and £18m (mid-point estimate £11m) in year one, and a net benefit of between £14m and £25m (mid-point estimate £19m) from year two onwards compared to the cost of complying with the three separate duties. Over a ten year period the net benefit is expected to be in the region of around £110m to £205m (net present value terms) compared to the cost of the previous duties. The focus on delivery and achieving real outcomes will ensure that every taxpayer gets better value for money and public services that take account of their needs.

¹⁷ <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/about-us/vision-and-mission/our-business-plan/>

Comparison of assumptions used to calculate the annually recurring costs of the new and previous equality duties where different – Table 7

Assumption	Previous Equality Duties	New Equality Duty
Number of days spent by an officer with responsibility for drawing up equality objectives	Small Health Authorities: 1 Schools: 1 HE/FE institutions: 1 Other small public bodies: 1 Local Authorities: 2 Large Health Authorities: 2 Central Government: 2	Small Health Authorities: 1 Schools: 1 HE/FE institutions: 1 Other small public bodies: 1 Local Authorities: 4 Large Health Authorities: 4 Central Government: 4
Number of days spent by an administrative assistant in drawing up equality objectives	Small Health Authorities: 1.5 Schools: 1.5 HE/FE institutions: 1.5 Other small public bodies: 1.5 Local Authorities: 2 Large Health Authorities: 2 Central Government: 2	Small Health Authorities: 1 Schools: 1 HE/FE institutions: 1 Other small public bodies: 1 Local Authorities: 2 Large Health Authorities: 2 Central Government: 2
Number of days spent by statistician/researcher in drawing up equality objectives	Small Health Authorities: 1.5 Schools: 1.5 HE/FE institutions: 1.5 Other small public bodies: 1.5 Local Authorities: 2 Large Health Authorities: 2 Central Government: 2	Small Health Authorities: 1 Schools: 1 HE/FE institutions: 1 Other small public bodies: 1 Local Authorities: 2 Large Health Authorities: 2 Central Government: 2
Number of days spent by statistician/researcher to understand the impact of policy.	Small Health Authorities: 2 Schools: 2 HE/FE institutions: 2 Other small public bodies: 2 Local Authorities: 0.5-1 Large Health Authorities: 0.5-1 Central Government: 1	Small Health Authorities: 1 Schools: 0.5 HE/FE institutions: 0.5 Other small public bodies: 1 Local Authorities: 1 Large Health Authorities: 1 Central Government: 1
Potential instances of analysis of evidence each year	Small Health Authorities: 5 Schools: 3 HE/FE institutions: 3 Other small public bodies: 5 Local Authorities: 20 Large Health Authorities: 20 Central Government: 40	Small Health Authorities: 5-7 Schools: 3-5 HE/FE institutions: 3-5 Other small public bodies: 5-7 Local Authorities: 15-20 Large Health Authorities: 15-20 Central Government: 35-40
Average (research) cost of reviewing equality objectives	£15,000 – over a 3 year period	£20,000 – over a 4 year period
Proportion of organisations incurring cost of reviewing equality objectives	Local Authorities: 25%-50% Large Health Authorities: 25%-50% Central Government: 25%-50%	Local Authorities: 100% Large Health Authorities: 100% Central Government: 100%
Proportion of organisations drawing up annual action plan	Large Health Authorities: 80%-100% Central Government: 80%-100%	Large Health Authorities: 100% Central Government: 100%
Impact of streamlining duties	Authorities would have to draw up and publish Equality Schemes, action plans and in depth impact assessment separately on the three specific duties. With variable requirements.	The new approach not only streamlines different requirements with different timescales into one duty, there is also no requirement for public authorities to publish lengthy equality schemes or action plans. The new duties require public bodies to deliver real, measurable transparent outcomes, rather than complete a list of tick box processes or complete lengthy documents.
Secretary of State Reports on disability	Listed Secretaries of State are required to publish a report every three years on the progress made to advance equality for disabled people in their department.	No requirement

Source:

- June 2009: Schneider- Ross: Assessing the cost & cost effectiveness of the specific race, disability & gender equality duties,
- June 2009: Equality Bill - Making it work : Policy proposals for specific duties,
- January 2010: Equality Bill – Making it work: Policy proposals for specific duties, Policy Statement,
- August 2010: Equality Act 2010: The public sector Equality Duty: Promoting equality through transparency. A consultation
- January 2011: The public sector Equality Duty: Promoting equality through transparency - Summary of responses to the consultation.
- Information in regard to cost/time of implementing/undertaking certain activities was also collated by GEO officials through direct engagement with public sector organisations including the Fire Service, Police, Government Departments and Local Authorities.

Annex 2

Post Implementation Review (PIR) Plan

Basis of the review:

The Government Equalities Office is committed to reviewing the Equality Act as a whole, and the Public Sector Equality Duty will be an integral part of that review. The Equality and Human Rights Commission also has an interest in reviewing the policy, given their regulatory role. A Framework approach to the evaluation of the Act has already been approved, with objectives and success criteria set out, and the Public Sector Equality Duty will have a small programme of research dedicated to understanding how it has worked, delivered through this Framework.

Review objective:

As part of the overall evaluation of the Equality Act, the precise objectives of the review of the Public Sector Equality Duty are still to be approved but will reflect those of the wider Equality Act of simpler law and strengthened legislation. At this stage it is envisaged any objective will also incorporate:

- To understand if, where and to what extent the Equality Duty is being implemented and the resulting outcomes (for both general and specific duties)

The review will seek to understand the resulting effect on equalities in the public sector, where this is demonstrable and directly attributable to the new duty, and also establish where lessons can be learnt from the implementation of the duty to enhance future application and better inform the development of future policy or legislation in this area.

Review approach and rationale:

The review approach is planned to take the form of a programme of research coordinated by GEO with input from EHRC, and this is being developed in the context of the wider Equality Act review. It will involve a variety of methods of evidence collection from public sector bodies themselves as well as the voluntary and community sector, citizens and the gathering of stakeholder views. This is in the absence of large scale and systematic monitoring data.

Baseline:

Work has already been undertaken to coordinate a baseline of evidence for the Equality Act as a whole, and in the context of the Public Sector Equality Duty this includes:

- Evidence regarding the functioning of the previous duties (gender, race and disability) referenced in this impact assessment.
- Relevant evidence from the Schneider- Ross report on Assessing the cost & cost effectiveness of the specific race, disability & gender equality duties (June 2009) that can be compared against as a baseline through follow-up research on a single Equality Duty.

Also EHRC have started an exercise to draw together existing evidence on equality reporting in some specific public sector bodies from previous EHRC work.

Success criteria:

The precise success criteria for the Public Sector Equality Duty will be determined in the context of the Equality Act review. The extent to which equalities considerations are mainstreamed into the decision making of relevant public bodies will be a key concern. At this stage it is envisaged the success criteria will incorporate:

- An integrated Public Sector Equality Duty is simpler – bringing together race, disability and gender equality duties.
- Implementation of the Public Sector Equality Duty is effective.
- Public sector bodies are aware of and understand their responsibilities; have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.
- Public sector bodies respond to their equality obligations and where they do, can do so more efficiently
- Public sector bodies are transparent in demonstrating their compliance with the Equality Duty.
- Where it is necessary the Public Sector Equality Duty results in the improved access to and operation of justice.

Monitoring information arrangements:

As the regulator, the Equality and Human Rights Commission will collect some information that maybe possible to use for monitoring purposes but there is not currently a large scale and systematic monitoring data for this across the public sector – which mean that the primary research for this review will be required to collect the information necessary to monitor the Public Sector Equality Duty. Where possible, the contextual and outcome indicators may also be monitored through relevant existing surveys and collected in collaboration with various and relevant public bodies (especially where information could be publicly published in response to greater transparency).

Competition Assessment Impact Test

We do not believe there will be any impact on competition as a result of these regulations.

Greenhouse Gas Assessment Impact Test

We do not believe there will be an impact on greenhouse gas emissions as a result of these regulations.

Wider Environmental Issues Impact Test

We do not believe there will be any wider environmental issues as a result of these regulations.

Health and Well-being Impact Test

We do not believe there will be an impact on health and well-being as a result of these regulations.

Human Rights Impact Test

These proposals do not contravene individuals' human rights. However, there will be a positive impact on the observance of individuals' human rights, as the measure requires public bodies to publish information in relation to the performance of Section 149 of the Equality Act, which requires public bodies to consider the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Justice Impact Test

We do not believe there will be an impact on Justice as a result of these regulations.

Rural Proofing Impact Test

We do not believe there will be an impact on rural proofing as a result of these regulations.

Sustainable Development Impact Test

We do not believe there will be an impact on sustainable development as a result of these regulations.