

Response to the consultation on the 'Red Tape Challenge on Equalities'

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

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1 Purpose of Report

To provide elected Members with the response presented to the Government, on behalf of Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, with regard to the consultation on 'Equalities.'

2 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the content of this report.

3 Background

The Equality Act 2010 was introduced in October of that year and sets out "protected characteristics", which cannot be used to treat people unfairly. These are; age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

This consultation response gives our response to the 'red tape challenge on equalities', which primarily looks at The Equality Act.

4 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5 Legal Comment

The Equality Act 2010 brought together nine separate pieces of legislation into a single place, to make the law simpler and to remove inconsistencies.

On 7 April 2011, the Government launched the Red Tape Challenge 'challenging the public to help us cut unnecessary regulations.' The Red Tape Challenge website includes reference to The Equality Act 2010, asking whether it should be scrapped, merged, simplified, improved or left as it is. Any proposals for change would receive careful consideration as to whether they were proportionate, practical, beneficial and in keeping with European Union or domestic legal obligations. Any proposals that passed that test would need to go through the appropriate consultation and Parliamentary process. Equality Impact Assessment

This is a consultation document on equality and so all equality considerations have been taken into consideration in the response.

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7 Appendices

See Appendix 1 –
'Response to the consultation on the Red Tape Challenge – Equality.'

8 Background Papers

A briefing was given on The Equality Act 2010 prior to the Fire Authority meeting on the 4 November 2010.