

M Hamilton
request-668865-
9473c830@whatdotheyknow.

Our ref: **FOI1516**

Thursday 02 July 2020

Dear M Hamilton,

Subject: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email dated 4 June 2020 in which you made the following request:

“Please provide the following information in regards to the gender reassignment working group:

- 1) Start/ inception date of group
- 2) Current remit of group
- 3) Previous remit of group - if different from current remit (with reasons for change(s) from original remit).
- 4) Details of involvement with Government and third sector and external organisations- including names of government departments, third sector organisations and other external organisations.
- 5) Please provide copies of all Gender Reassignment Working Group’s meetings’ minutes, from the start/inception date of the working group to the most recent. Please also provide copies of summary updates according to intervals required as part of the Gender Reassignment Working Group’s remit (monthly/ quarterly/bi-annually/annually).

Please also provide the following information in regards to EHRC working groups:

What working groups on protected characteristics are run by the EHRC?

T: 0161 829 8100

E: foi@equalityhumanrights.com

Arndale House, The Arndale Centre
Manchester, M4 3AQ

equalityhumanrights.com

Which protected characteristics do not have a specific working group and why?

Response

For clarity we have responded to each of your requests in turn below:

1) Start/ inception date of group

The Gender Reassignment Working Group first formally met on 4 July 2018.

2) Current remit of group

3) Previous remit of group - if different from current remit (with reasons for change(s) from original remit).

The remit of the group was, and continues to be, to coordinate the Commission's work on trans issues across teams and nations.

4) Details of involvement with Government and third sector and external organisations- including names of government departments, third sector organisations and other external organisations.

A list of the Government, third sector and external organisations members of the Gender Reassignment Working Group have been involved with in relation to the Group's remit, and the nature of the involvement can be found in Annex A accompanying this letter.

T: 0161 829 8100

E: foi@equalityhumanrights.com

Arndale House, The Arndale Centre
Manchester, M4 3AQ

equalityhumanrights.com

5) Please provide copies of all Gender Reassignment Working Group's meetings' minutes, from the start/inception date of the working group to the most recent. Please also provide copies of summary updates according to intervals required as part of the Gender Reassignment Working Group's remit (monthly/ quarterly/bi-annually/annually).

The following documents are being disclosed alongside this letter:

- Gender Reassignment Working Group Minutes (Annex B)
- 161018 Trans work update for Board (Annex C)
- Gender Reassignment Working Group – Comms Update 12.03.19 (Annex D)

Please note that some information has been redacted where we consider that any of the exemptions listed below apply:

- Section 31(1)(g) Law enforcement
- Section 40(2) Personal information
- Section 41 Information provided in confidence
- Section 42 Legal professional privilege

An explanation of these exemptions and how we have applied them can be found in Appendices A, B, C and D accompanying this letter.

T: 0161 829 8100

E: foi@equalityhumanrights.com

Arndale House, The Arndale Centre
Manchester, M4 3AQ

equalityhumanrights.com

Please also provide the following information in regards to EHRC working groups:

What working groups on protected characteristics are run by the EHRC?

The Commission has set up Working Groups for the protected characteristics of 'Gender reassignment' and 'Race'.

Which protected characteristics do not have a specific working group and why?

The following protected characteristics do not have a specific working group but each have their own designated Lead Officer/s.

- Age – Children
- Age – Older people
- Disability
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

Our objectives in establishing protected characteristic (PC) leads are to enable the development of greater expertise within the Commission about key issues, context, legal framework etc. in relation to each protected characteristic, and to

T: 0161 829 8100

E: foi@equalityhumanrights.com

Arndale House, The Arndale Centre
Manchester, M4 3AQ

equalityhumanrights.com

support improved stakeholder relationships.

It is also worth noting that although there is no specific working group for Disability or Age we do have a working group to inform the implementation of our independent living strategy; seeking to strengthen the law on the right to independent living for disabled and older people.

We trust the above addresses your request to your satisfaction. However, if you are unhappy with our response and wish to request an internal review of our decision please write to the Information Governance Team within 40 days of receiving this letter setting out your reasons at:

foi@equalityhumanrights.com

or

Equality and Human Rights Commission

3rd Floor Arndale House

The Arndale Centre

Manchester M4 3AQ

During the independent review the handling of your information request will be

T: 0161 829 8100

E: foi@equalityhumanrights.com

Arndale House, The Arndale Centre

Manchester, M4 3AQ

equalityhumanrights.com

reassessed by Commission staff afresh. If following the review you are not content with the outcome you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Generally the ICO cannot provide a decision until you have exhausted the review process within the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

If the Commission can be of any further assistance please contact us using the details provided below.

Yours sincerely,

EHRC Information Governance Team

T: 0161 829 8100

E: foi@equalityhumanrights.com

Arndale House, The Arndale Centre
Manchester, M4 3AQ

equalityhumanrights.com