



Equality Act 2010

2010 CHAPTER 15

PART 1

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES

1 Public sector duty regarding socio-economic inequalities

- (1) An authority to which this section applies must, when making decisions of a strategic nature about how to exercise its functions, have due regard to the desirability of exercising them in a way that is designed to reduce the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage.
- (2) In deciding how to fulfil a duty to which it is subject under subsection (1), an authority must take into account any guidance issued [^{F1}in accordance with subsection (2A)].

[^{F2}(2A) The guidance to be taken into account under subsection (2) is—

- (a) in the case of a duty imposed on an authority in relation to devolved Scottish functions, guidance issued by the Scottish Ministers;
- [in the case of a duty imposed on an authority in relation to devolved Welsh
- ^{F3}(aa) functions, guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers;]
- (b) in any other case, guidance issued by a Minister of the Crown.]

[^{F4}(3) The authorities to which this section applies are—

- (a) the Scottish Ministers;
- (b) Food Standards Scotland;
- (c) Keeper of the Registers of Scotland;
- (d) National Records of Scotland;
- (e) Revenue Scotland;
- (f) Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service;
- (g) a council constituted under section 2 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994;
- (h) an integration joint board established under section 9(2) of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014;

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- (i) a Health Board constituted under section 2(1)(a) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978;
- (j) a Special Health Board constituted under section 2(1)(b) of that Act;
- (k) Scottish Police Authority;
- (l) Highlands and Islands Enterprise;
- (m) Scottish Enterprise.]
- [^{F10}(n) Scottish National Investment Bank p.l.c.;
- (o) South of Scotland Enterprise.]

[^{F11}(3A) This section also applies to the following authorities—

- (a) the Welsh Ministers;
- (b) a county council or county borough council in Wales;
- (c) a Local Health Board established under section 11 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006;
- (d) an NHS Trust established under section 18 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006;
- (e) a Special Health Authority established under section 22 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 other than a cross-border Special Health Authority (within the meaning of section 8A(5) of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006);
- (f) a fire and rescue authority constituted by a scheme under section 2 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, or a scheme to which section 4 of that Act applies, for an area in Wales;
- (g) a National Park authority established by an order under section 63 of the Environment Act 1995 for an area in Wales;
- (h) the Welsh Revenue Authority or Awdurdod Cyllid Cymru.]

^{F12}(4)

^{F13}(5)

- (6) The reference to inequalities in subsection (1) does not include any inequalities experienced by a person as a result of being a person subject to immigration control within the meaning given by section 115(9) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 1(2) substituted (23.5.2016) by [Scotland Act 2016 \(c. 11\), ss. 38\(3\), 72\(7\)](#)
- F2** S. 1(2A) inserted (23.5.2016) by [Scotland Act 2016 \(c. 11\), ss. 38\(4\), 72\(7\)](#)
- F3** S. 1(2A)(aa) inserted (1.4.2018) by [Wales Act 2017 \(c. 4\), ss. 45\(2\), 71\(4\)](#) (with Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6); [S.I. 2017/1179, reg. 3\(i\)](#)
- F4** S. 1(3) substituted (S.) (1.4.2018) by [The Equality Act 2010 \(Authorities subject to the Socio-economic Inequality Duty\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2018 \(S.S.I. 2018/101\), regs. 1, 2\(2\)](#)
- F5** S. 1(3A)(ba) inserted (3.12.2021) by [The Equality Act 2010 \(Authorities subject to a duty regarding Socio-economic Inequalities\) \(No. 2\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2021 \(S.I. 2021/1351\), regs. 1\(2\), 2](#)
- F6** S. 1(3)(h) omitted (E.W.) (1.4.2013) by virtue of [Health and Social Care Act 2012 \(c. 7\), s. 55\(2\), Sch. 5 para. 181\(a\)](#); [S.I. 2013/160, art. 2\(2\)](#) (with arts. 7-9)
- F7** S. 1(3)(i) omitted (1.4.2013) by virtue of [Health and Social Care Act 2012 \(c. 7\), s. 55\(2\), Sch. 5 para. 181\(b\)](#); [S.I. 2013/160, art. 2\(2\)](#) (with arts. 7-9)
- F8** S. 1(3)(j) repealed (1.7.2012 at 0.02 a.m.) by [Public Bodies Act 2011 \(c. 24\), s. 30\(3\), Sch. 6](#); [S.I. 2012/1662, art. 2\(2\)\(b\)](#)

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- F9** Words in s. 1(3)(k) substituted (22.11.2012) by Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (c. 13), s. 99, **Sch. 16 para. 381**; S.I. 2012/2892, **art. 2(a)(i)**
- F10** S. 1(3)(n)(o) inserted (26.11.2020) by The Scottish National Investment Bank p.l.c. and South of Scotland Enterprise (Miscellaneous Listings) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/403), regs. 1, **2(2)**
- F11** S. 1(3A) inserted (E.W.) (30.3.2021) by The Equality Act 2010 (Authorities subject to a duty regarding Socio-economic Inequalities) (Wales) Regulations 2021 (S.I. 2021/295), regs. 1, **2**
- F12** S. 1(4) omitted (26.5.2015) by virtue of Deregulation Act 2015 (c. 20), **ss. 100(2)(g)**, 115(3)(k)
- F13** S. 1(5) omitted (26.5.2015) by virtue of Deregulation Act 2015 (c. 20), **ss. 100(2)(g)**, 115(3)(k)

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 1 in force at 31.3.2021 for specified purposes for W. by S.I. 2021/298, **art. 2(a)**
- I2** S. 1(1)-(3)(6) in force at 1.4.2018 for S. by S.S.I. 2017/403, **art. 2(1)(a)(2)** [Editorial note: art. 2(2) of the commencement order provides that, for the avoidance of doubt, s. 1(3) is commenced as originally enacted]

2 Power to amend section 1

- (1) A Minister of the Crown may by regulations amend section 1 so as to—
- add a public authority to the authorities that are subject to the duty under subsection (1) of that section;
 - remove an authority from those that are subject to the duty;
 - make the duty apply, in the case of a particular authority, only in relation to certain functions that it has;
 - in the case of an authority to which the application of the duty is already restricted to certain functions, remove or alter the restriction.
- (2) In subsection (1) “public authority” means an authority that has functions of a public nature.
- (3) Provision made under subsection (1) may not impose a duty on an authority in relation to any devolved Scottish functions or devolved Welsh functions.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers or the Welsh Ministers may by regulations amend section 1 so as to—
- add a relevant authority to the authorities that are subject to the duty under subsection (1) of that section;
 - remove a relevant authority from those that are subject to the duty;
 - make the duty apply, in the case of a particular relevant authority, only in relation to certain functions that it has;
 - in the case of a relevant authority to which the application of the duty is already restricted to certain functions, remove or alter the restriction.
- (5) For the purposes of the power conferred by subsection (4) on the Scottish Ministers, “relevant authority” means an authority whose functions—
- are exercisable only in or as regards Scotland,
 - are wholly or mainly devolved Scottish functions, and
 - correspond or are similar to those of an authority for the time being specified in section 1(3).
- (6) For the purposes of the power conferred by subsection (4) on the Welsh Ministers, “relevant authority” means [F14 a devolved Welsh authority (within the meaning given by section 157A of the Government of Wales Act 2006) whose functions correspond]

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or are similar to those of an authority for the time being specified in subsection (3) of section 1 or referred to in subsection (4) of that section.

^{F15}(7)

(8) Regulations under this section may make any amendments of section 1 that appear to the Minister or Ministers to be necessary or expedient in consequence of provision made under subsection (1) or (as the case may be) subsection (4).

^{F16}(9)

^{F17}(10)

(11) For the purposes of this [^{F18}Part]—

(a) a function is a devolved Scottish function if it is exercisable in or as regards Scotland and it does not relate to reserved matters (within the meaning of the Scotland Act 1998);

^{F19}(b)

Textual Amendments

- F14** Words in s. 2(6) substituted (1.4.2018) by Wales Act 2017 (c. 4), s. 71(4), **Sch. 6 para. 83(2)** (with Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6); S.I. 2017/1179, reg. 3(r)
- F15** S. 2(7) omitted (1.4.2018) by virtue of Wales Act 2017 (c. 4), **ss. 45(3), 71(4)** (with Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6); S.I. 2017/1179, reg. 3(i)
- F16** S. 2(9) omitted (1.4.2018) by virtue of Wales Act 2017 (c. 4), **ss. 45(3), 71(4)** (with Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6); S.I. 2017/1179, reg. 3(i)
- F17** S. 2(10) omitted (1.4.2018) by virtue of Wales Act 2017 (c. 4), **ss. 45(3), 71(4)** (with Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6); S.I. 2017/1179, reg. 3(i)
- F18** Word in s. 2(11) substituted (23.5.2016) by Scotland Act 2016 (c. 11), **ss. 38(8), 72(7)**
- F19** S. 2(11)(b) omitted (1.4.2018) by virtue of Wales Act 2017 (c. 4), s. 71(4), **Sch. 6 para. 83(3)** (with Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6); S.I. 2017/1179, reg. 3(r)

Commencement Information

- I3** S. 2 in force at 1.4.2018 for S. by S.S.I. 2017/403, **art. 2(1)(b)**
- I4** S. 2 in force at 22.11.2019 for specified purposes for W. by S.I. 2019/1469, **art. 2**

3 Enforcement

A failure in respect of a performance of a duty under section 1 does not confer a cause of action at private law.

Commencement Information

- I5** S. 3 in force at 1.4.2018 for S. by S.S.I. 2017/403, **art. 2(1)(c)**
- I6** S. 3 in force at 31.3.2021 for specified purposes for W. by S.I. 2021/298, **art. 2(b)**

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 40A inserted by [2023 c. 51 s. 1](#)
- s. 120(9) inserted by [2023 c. 51 s. 2\(b\)](#)
- s. 124A inserted by [2023 c. 51 s. 3](#)