



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;

Status: Point in time view as at 26/11/2020.

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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.]
- [^{F9}(n) Scottish National Investment Bank p.l.c.;
- (o) South of Scotland Enterprise.]

^{F10}(4)

^{F11}(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(3)(h) omitted (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)
- F6** 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)
- F7** 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)**
- F8** 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)**
- F9** 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)**
- F10** S. 1(4) omitted (26.5.2015) by virtue of [Deregulation Act 2015 \(c. 20\)](#), **ss. 100(2)(g)**, 115(3)(k)
- F11** 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\(1\)-\(3\)\(6\)](#) 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—
 - (a) add a public authority to the authorities that are subject to the duty under subsection (1) of that section;
 - (b) remove an authority from those that are subject to the duty;
 - (c) make the duty apply, in the case of a particular authority, only in relation to certain functions that it has;

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- (d) 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—
 - (a) add a relevant authority to the authorities that are subject to the duty under subsection (1) of that section;
 - (b) remove a relevant authority from those that are subject to the duty;
 - (c) make the duty apply, in the case of a particular relevant authority, only in relation to certain functions that it has;
 - (d) 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—
 - (a) are exercisable only in or as regards Scotland,
 - (b) are wholly or mainly devolved Scottish functions, and
 - (c) 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 ^{F12}a devolved Welsh authority (within the meaning given by section 157A of the Government of Wales Act 2006) whose functions correspond] 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.
- ^{F13}(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).
- ^{F14}(9)
- ^{F15}(10)
- (11) For the purposes of this ^{F16}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);
 - ^{F17}(b)

Textual Amendments

F12 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\(r\)](#)

F13 [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\(i\)](#)

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- F14** 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)
- F15** 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)
- F16** Word in s. 2(11) substituted (23.5.2016) by Scotland Act 2016 (c. 11), **ss. 38(8), 72(7)**
- F17** 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

- I2** S. 2 in force at 1.4.2018 for S. by S.S.I. 2017/403, **art. 2(1)(b)**
- I3** 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

- I4** S. 3 in force at 1.4.2018 for S. by S.S.I. 2017/403, **art. 2(1)(c)**

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