



1 June 2010

Dear Consultee

Consultation on the Draft EQIA of the Provisional Criteria for Initiating Statutory Assessments of Special Educational Need and for Making Statements of Special Educational Need

The five Education and Library Boards are carrying out an Equality Impact Assessment on the 'Provisional Criteria for Initiating Statutory Assessments of Special Educational Need and for Making Statements of Special Educational Need'. The Boards wish to engage in consultation with you at this stage of the EQIA, having completed an assessment of impacts and consideration of mitigation measures as contained in the Draft EQIA.

The aims of the policy are:

- to make explicit the ways in which the five Boards apply the guidance from the Code of Practice (CoP);
- under Article 4 of 'the 1996 Order' to align the criteria with existing guidance provided in Appendix A of the CoP, DE (1998);
- to provide an explicit and common set of SEN criteria to be consistently applied across all Board areas;
- to cross reference the terms used in Appendix A of the CoP together with the Department of Education's new set of terms as outlined in 'Areas of Special Educational Needs – Recording Children with Special Educational Needs' (2005).

The Draft EQIA, which contains a response pro forma at Appendix 1, is available at: www.neelb.org.uk/eqia or from:

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The document can also be made available on request, in alternative formats including large print, on computer disc, in Braille, on audio-cassette or in minority languages to meet the demands of those people who are not fluent in English.

All responses should be made to the above by **Thursday 30th September 2010**.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Yours sincerely

Geoffrey McGeagh
Chairman, EQIA Project Team