

# Equality of Opportunity Committee

## Minutes (EOC(2)-02-06)

**Meeting date: 15 February 2006**

**Meeting time: 09.30**

**Meeting venue: Committee Rooms 3 & 4, Assembly Offices, Cardiff Bay**

### Assembly Members in Attendance

Assembly Member	Constituency
Gwenda Thomas (Chair)	Neath
Lorraine Barrett	Cardiff South and Penarth
John Griffiths	Newport East
Mark Isherwood	North Wales
Helen Mary Jones	Mid and West Wales
Laura Anne Jones	South Wales East
Huw Lewis	Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney
Jenny Randerson	Cardiff Central
Catherine Thomas	Llanelli
Leanne Wood	South Wales Central

### Standing Invitees in Attendance

Alun Thomas	Disability Rights Commission (DRC)
Kate Bennett	Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)
Chris Myant	Commission for Racial Equality (CRE)
Dr. Alison Parken	Stonewall Cymru

## Others in Attendance

Name	Representing (if applicable)	Agenda item(s)
Ian Cope	Office for National Statistics	3
Ian White	Office for National Statistics	3
Dr. Victoria Winkler	The Bevan Foundation	6

## Committee Service

Name	Job title
Roger Chaffey	Committee Clerk
Alun Davidson	Committee Support Staff

## Item 1: Introduction, Apologies, Substitutions, Quorum and Declarations of Interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies from standing invitees Will Bee and Huw Onllwyn Jones. Will Bee was represented by Alun Thomas.

1.2 There were no declarations of interest under Standing Order 4.6.

1.3 A verbatim record of the meeting is available.

## Item 2: Minutes of the previous meeting, matters arising and report from the Chair (09:30 - 9.40)

Paper: EOC(2)-01-06(min)

2.1 There were no comments on the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January

Actions:

The Committee agreed that the Chair will write to the Editor of The Western Mail expressing their disappointment at his refusal to appear before them to justify an article his paper published by Lowri Turner, which had homophobic content. She will also request that all letters in response to this article be published. The Chair will issue a press release in conjunction with this.

The Chair will respond to a letter received by Huw Lewis AM from the APS Human Resources department regarding making recruitment advertising more effective.

The Chair will write to NTL regarding charges they have made to deaf users of their 'typetalk' service, as outlined in correspondence Lorraine Barrett AM has received.

The Clerk will contact Skill Wales to obtain more details on their 'Transition in Action' service.

The Chair to respond to a letter received from Jenny Randerson AM on the 'Life Changes for Disabled People' Report.

### **Item 3: Office for National Statistics: Preparations for Census 201 (09:40-10:20)**

Paper: EOC(2)-02-06 (p.1) – Preparations for Census 2011

Actions:

Ian Close will provide the Clerk with an outline of the timetable for producing the 2011 Census.

The Clerk will provide The Office for National Statistics with a paper outlining the Committee's views and to express the Committee's desire to be involved in all future consultation.

The Chair will write to the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure the importance of the Committee's views is recognised and to ensure the Committee is consulted at every future stage.

### **Item 4:Policy Review: Service Provision for Disabled Young People (10:20-11:00)**

Paper: EOC(2)-02-06(p.2) – Draft interim Report on Service Provision for Disabled Young People

Actions:

The Clerk, Helen Mary Jones AM and Lorraine Barrett AM are to meet with the facilitators to discuss the facilitator's role in implementing possible changes in the working of the Reference Group.

The Clerk will draft a further chapter to give the Committee a clearer view of the topics to be addressed in the next stage of the Policy Review and to outline the interrelationship between the topics encountered to date and those to be considered in the future.

Break: 11:00 – 11:20

## **Item 5: Equal Opportunities Commission Annual Report for 2004-05 (11:20-12:00)**

Paper: EOC(2)-02-06 (p.3) – Equal Opportunities Commission Wales Review 2005

### Actions

Kate Bennett will approach the Electoral Commission for information on the ‘individual registration’ and how this could impact upon the representation of currently underrepresented groups.

Kate Bennett to forward John Griffiths AM data on under represented groups, especially older BME Women and ‘stereotyped’ jobs.

The Chair will write to the Better Governance of Wales Bill Committee’s Chair, in light of the proposed change to the National Assembly for Wales’s electoral arrangements, in part 1, clause 7 of the Governance of Wales Bill 2005. The Chair will ask that a gender impact assessment be considered at the appropriate stage of the BGWB Committee’s scrutiny of the Bill.

## **Item 6: Presentation from the Bevan Foundation (12:00-12:35)**

Paper: EOC(2)-02-06(p.4) – Measuring Up: A Consultation Paper on Measuring Progress towards Gender Equality in Wales

### Actions:

The Chair will forward a written statement to Dr. Victoria Winkler, in response to the Bevan Foundation consultation on gender equality, for consideration by 24 February 2006.

Paper to Note (12:35-12:40)

Paper: EOC(2)-02-06(p.5) – Equality Priorities in the European Commission Work Programme for 2006.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 12.40 pm. The next meeting would be on 22 March 2006.