

# Equality of Opportunity Committee

## Minutes EOC(3)-15-08

**Date: Thursday 20 November 2008**

**Time: 10.30 - 11.30**

**Venue: Committee Room 2, Senedd, National Assembly for Wales**

### Assembly Members in Attendance

Ann Jones, Vale of Clwyd (Chair)

Eleanor Burnham, North Wales

Bethan Jenkins, South Wales West

Irene James, Islwyn

Officials in Attendance

Tom Jackson, Clerk

Rita Phillips, Deputy Clerk

Helen Roberts, Legal Adviser

Others in Attendance

Lorraine Barrett AM, Commissioner for the Sustainable Assembly

Iwan Williams, Media, Publications and Website Content Manager, National Assembly for Wales

Holly Pembroke, Equalities Manager, National Assembly for Wales

Item 1: Introduction, apologies and substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed Committee Members and members of the public.

1.2 Apologies were received from Nick Ramsay and Joyce Watson. Irene James substituted for Joyce Watson.

1.3 There were no declarations of interest.

### Item 2: Accessibility of Information

**Paper: EOC(3)-15-08 (p1)**

#### 2.1 Members discussed issues raised in Paper 1.

##### Actions:

The Chair to write to the Minister for Local Government and Social Justice asking him to monitor the progress of implementing accessible information policies in Local Authorities.

The Chair to write to the WLGA to ask for copies of the accessible information policies implemented in 2 Local Authorities and suggest that this best practice be extended across Local Authorities in Wales.

The Chair to write to the Minister for Health and Social Services to raise concerns that GP appointment cards are often not available in an accessible format and ask if there has been an improvement since the survey, in Annex 2, had been completed.

### Item 3: Summary of Equality of Opportunity Committee Achievements 2008

Paper: EOC(3)-15-08(p.2)

3.1 Members discussed the Committee's work during 2008.

##### Actions:

Committee members to consider new ways of gathering ideas for future inquiries and engaging with the public.

The Chair to write to the Minister for Local Government and Social Justice to ask what action was being taken in light of recent reports that the pay gap was increasing in Wales.

The Chair to invite Disabled Children Matter to a Committee meeting during Spring 2009 to ask if they were content with the budget settlement.

Item 4: Assembly Commission Accessible Information Policy

Paper: EOC(3)-15-08(p.3)

4.1 Lorraine Barrett AM, Iwan Williams and Holly Pembridge updated the Committee on accessibility considerations within the External Communications Engagement Strategy. They responded to questions from the Committee.

4.2 The Chair thanked Lorraine Barrett AM, Iwan Williams and Holly Pembridge for attending the Committee meeting.

**Committee Service**

**November 2008**