

**COMMITTEE ON EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY**

Date: 21 March 2001

Time: 9.00am

Venue: Committee Room 3, National Assembly Building

**Title: 'LIFTING EVERY VOICE' - A NOTE TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY FROM THE CHAIR**

I very much welcome the report produced by Roger McKenzie on institutional racism at the National Assembly for Wales.

The report goes a long way towards identifying and addressing practices within the National Assembly which may have the effect of discriminating against persons on the grounds of race. I am anxious to see that the Assembly reflects the whole population it serves both in terms of the make-up of its staff and the approaches it takes to developing policies and practices.

The recommendations made in "Lifting Every Voice" contain many sensible approaches to addressing the problems of institutional racism. I am very pleased to see that the Permanent Secretary welcomes these recommendations and, in particular, that he plans to put the action plan into practice in the near future. I know that Mr Shortridge shares my wish to ensure discrimination is eliminated in everything the Assembly does. Developing and implementing the action planning process will help achieve that end.