

EQIA STAKEHOLDER SESSION – 25 SEPTEMBER 2019

Attendees:

- Sophie Bridger, Stonewall
- Rebecca McGregor, Inclusion Scotland
- James Morton, Scottish Trans Alliance
- Andrew Ballingall, Fife Council
- [name redacted] (NRS)
- [name redacted] (NRS)
- [name redacted] (NRS)
- [name redacted] (NRS)

Sophie asked a question about non-response rates.

Rebecca asked about the intersection between disabled men and disabled women. NRS recognised that there are barriers to people taking part in census, particularly where there is a combination of protected characteristics. Rebecca will follow up if Inclusion Scotland identify any combination of protected characteristics that need to be addressed.

Andrew asked about the 80/20 ambition for the census to be completed primarily online. Fife has a large population of older population – almost a third of Fife. Glasgow is a deprived area – how would people complete online there.

Mobile technology – older people don't necessarily use PC's or laptops. Will there be a parallel marketing campaign. [name redacted] confirmed that OCI is device neutral and supported by a broad range of software.

Rehearsal will be testing the online platform.

No statement yet in EQIA of positive / negative / neutral impacts – reassurance that this will be included in final version published with draft order.

James said that the outcome for gender reassignment will be different in the impact assessment dependant on the outcome of other work (GR bill etc).

Page 17 needs redrafted as it gives the impression that stakeholders are balanced.

Legal sex – negative impact on the migrant trans community. For example, South Africa has different laws. There could be a great level of confusion for the trans community depending on what guidance is used.

The psychological impact of forcing trans people to declare themselves in a particular way should be included.

Impact on the way trans people are treated by public services and how they are perceived.

James will provide some papers with helpful quotes to understand equality act definitions.

Census has been measuring demographics in a different way to the equality act – it also affects disability and religion.

Sophie agreed with all James said.

Comments that this is a step forward for the trans community should be included.

Sophie commented that the summary of evidence is really good – better than others she has seen.

There is a well-made point in the EQIA about young LGBT people requesting paper forms – would apply to other protected characteristics so worth making that point.

Trans part – acceptability of answering voluntary questions – the more acceptable the sex question then the more likely they are to complete trans question.

Data user – won't be able to determine trans men / women data if sex question answered in any other way. Undermines data of trans question.

Worth acknowledging that small number of paper forms will be requested to allow non-binary people to complete.

Page 17 – 2nd paragraph is contradictory.

STA supports data that shows demographic of trans women and trans men – can take biological birth into account. Comparison of two answers.

Andrew - "Voluntary" needs to be a bit more explicit in guidance.

Question 21 doesn't state in guidance that question is voluntary.

Is title included in name? No – Sophie commented that this was good to know when they talk to other public services about how they collect data.

Invite James for a chat before finalising EQIA.