



16 September 2013

PRESS RELEASE

Commission welcomes DVLA apology

The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland has welcomed a written apology from the Chief Executive of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) for the wording in its recent consultation document on the Future of Vehicle Registration and Licensing Services in NI.

The apology was written in reply to a letter sent by the Chief Executive of the Equality Commission, Evelyn Collins CBE, last month (22 August, 2013) which expressed both surprise and concern that the DVLA document contained “suggestions of institutional bias which do not appear to be based on any evidence” and sought an explanation.

Speaking today, 16 September 2013, Evelyn Collins said: “We welcome the apology from the Agency and the confirmation that “there was no intention to imply in the Equality Analysis that staff at the Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA) may be biased, either in the way they deliver services now or have done in the past”.

She confirmed that the Commission would be happy to provide advice and assistance on the requirements of equality legislation to DVLA as it reviews the position going forward.