Equality Commission FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Equality Focus

The e-newsletter of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

January 2009

Welcome to Equality Focus - the e-newsletter of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. We hope you find this informative and that you will pass it on to anyone you think would find it interesting. We welcome any suggestions or comments you may have.

Comment on jobs allocation debate

ECNI Chief Commissioner Bob Collins

"Equality laws are not optional extras which can be dispensed with in hard times" Bob Collins, Chief Commissioner of the Equality Commission, has said in response to suggestions that employers should give preference to people from Northern Ireland if jobs become vacant.

Read the statement in full **here**.

Have your say on 'Good and Harmonious Working Environment' proposals

We are reviewing our guidance to employers on 'Promoting a Good and Harmonious Working Environment' and would welcome your comments.

You can find out more **here**. If you would like to meet with the review team telephone 028 90 500 595 or email: edenenquiries@equalityni.org. The guidance is available in different formats, for example hard copy, large print or Braille.

New publication - Decisions & Settlements Review 2007-2008

Our annual review of decisions and settlements in discrimination cases is now available on the website - click **here** to view.

103 cases supported by the Commission were resolved in the year; 90 of these were settled before reaching a court hearing and resulted in compensation payments to claimants of almost £1 million.

Keeping it Effective

The Commission has published the Report on its review of the effectiveness of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the consultation.

Click **here** to see the final Report. If you would like a hard copy of the Report please ring Steve Gray on 028 90500858 or email sgray@equalityni.org.

Upcoming event

Retail Sector Equality Network will be meeting on 4th March 2009 at Equality House to discuss recent developments in employment equality law. Find out more, including how to join the network **here**.

Need advice or guidance about equality or discrimination?

The Commission provides free and confidential advice to individuals, employers and service providers on all aspects of equality. We also provide a range of training services. Contact our Enquiry line on 028 90 890 890 or view our advisory publications **here**.

If you have any comments on this newsletter or would like it in other formats please email: Christina Martin, Communications Officer at **cmartin@equalityni.org**
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