

## FACTSHEET 4:

### ***EQUALITY COMMISSION: AWARENESS AND PUBLIC CONFIDENCE***

This factsheet presents the key findings in relation to the Equality Commission: in particular, awareness of the Commission and its role, and the degree of confidence in the organisation itself.

#### **Key Findings: Equality Commission - Awareness and Public Confidence**

- When asked which organisation had overall responsibility for promoting equality and dealing with anti-discrimination in Northern Ireland, 30% of respondents correctly identified the Equality Commission. This compares with 11% in 2005. The next most common response was the Equal Opportunities Commission (5%), a predecessor organisation.
- When then advised of the function of the Equality Commission, 55% indicated that they had heard of the Commission prior to this survey. This was broadly similar to the finding of the 2005 survey (58%).
- 82% of those who were aware of the Commission indicated they knew something about the organisation's role or work, compared with 65% in 2005.
- When asked to indicate the main services provided by the Commission, the most common response was 'advising people' (43%), followed by monitoring the workforce (26%), providing information to employers (20%) and supporting people to take cases to tribunal (20%)
- Of those who were aware of the Commission:
  - 63% had some or a lot of confidence in the organisation's ability to promote equality of opportunity for all. 17% indicated little or no confidence;
  - 66% agreed that the Commission is a source of expert advice on equality issues. 9% disagreed;
  - 64% were satisfied that the Commission provides equal treatment to all members of the public. 12% were dissatisfied;
  - 53% agreed that the Commission is respected equally by all sections of the community in Northern Ireland. 17% disagreed.
- Excluding those respondents who indicated they were uncertain, the most suggested improvement the Commission could make to increase confidence in the organisation would be to engage in more promotion and advertising of its services (48%).