

Equality Impact Assessment of the review of H&S Policy on Artificial Optical Radiation (AOR)

By: Suzanne Barnes (SB)

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Project Aim
<i>What does the project aim to achieve? (Please note the financial and / or non-financial outcomes and benefits)</i>
To review and update management arrangements to ensure the health and safety of persons who could be exposed to AOR whilst on University campus.

Project Title	Review of existing H&S Policy on Artificial Optical Radiation
Project Lead	Suzanne Barnes (SB)
Project Team	

What impact does the project, policy or practice have on people that share a protected characteristic?
<i>Under the equality duty (set out in the Equality Act 2010), the University must have ‘due regard’ to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation as well as to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The protected characteristics covered by the equality duty are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The duty also covers marriage and civil partnerships, but only in respect of eliminating unlawful discrimination. The law requires that the University demonstrates it has had ‘due regard’ to the aims of the equality duty in its planning and decision-making processes. Although not classed as protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, due regard must also be made to the effects of planning and decision-making processes on carers. Due regard also needs to be given to the Welsh Language under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.</i>

Public Sector Equality Duty Requirements	Detail of Impact (Positive / Neutral / Negative)	Evidence
Eliminating Discrimination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Is the project, policy or practice likely to treat anyone less favourably or disadvantage them because of their protected characteristics?</i> <i>Could the project, policy or practice lead to different outcomes for different protected groups?</i> 	<p>Although the Policy itself does not treat any person differently, there is a specific obligation under the Control of Artificial Optical Radiation at Work Regulations (AOR) to ensure no person is harmed due to exposure to artificial optical radiation.</p>	<p>Risk Assessments and if required Local Rules should always suitably assess the potential for exposure to AOR which includes those who could be impacted on if in the vicinity of equipment / activity which generates AOR.</p> <p>Associated activity documents, training that should be undertaken by any AOR equipment operator and other controls such as dedicated rooms, restricted access, filters, should ensure the</p>

		health, safety and well-being of all persons who could be affected.
<p>Advancing Equality of Opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Will the needs of staff and students with different protected characteristics be met?</i> • <i>Could the project, policy or practice lead to increased take-up / participation by protected groups?</i> • <i>Are there any opportunities to proactively advance equality for specific protected groups and / or between protected groups?</i> 	The risks associated with AOR may necessitate that some members of staff or students with a pre-existing medical condition of the eye may require different arrangements to safeguard them from potential adverse impacts of exposure to optical radiation, particularly UV.	The Policy however seeks to make it clear that a general-prohibition approach for AOR is not acceptable and cases must be considered individually. Staff and students are requested to advise a suitable person of a pre-existing medical condition, particularly of the eye that should be considered in a risk assessment. This so appropriate arrangements can be put in place.
<p>Promoting Good Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Have steps been taken to tackle prejudice and promote understanding?</i> • <i>How have relevant individuals, groups or organisations been involved / consulted in developing and impact assessing the project?</i> 	The policy aims to support and safeguard individuals, whatever their needs. It also aims to encourage dialogue and consideration of all of the factors.	
Based on the above assessment, what course of action is required?		
<p>No major change required <i>The assessment has not identified any potential for discrimination or adverse impact and all opportunities to advance equality have been taken.</i></p>	No changes required in the Policy	
<p>Make adjustments to remove barriers or to better advance equality <i>Note the adjustments that will be made to remove barriers identified by the assessment or to better advance equality.</i></p>		
<p>Continue despite having identified some potential for adverse impacts or missed opportunities to advance equality <i>Note the steps that will be taken to reduce or mitigate the adverse impacts.</i></p>		

Stop and rethink <i>The assessment shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination. Note the action to be taken to stop and / or rethink the project.</i>	

How will the actual impact of the project, policy or practice be monitored once it has been implemented?
The Policy will be reviewed by the Health, Safety & Emergency Management Task Group, as per the schedule of policy review and / or as legislative requirements change.

Publication This Equality Impact Assessment will be published – on the H&S website
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