

Equality Impact Assessment of the review of H&S Policy on Safe Use of Lasers

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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>

Project Title	Review of existing H&S Policy on safe use of lasers
Project Lead	Suzanne Barnes (SB)
Project Team	SB

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
<p>Eliminating Discrimination</p> <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>Potentially Negative.</p> <p>In some very rare instances, ‘persons with a protected characteristic’ may be treated differently in order to ensure the health, safety and well-being of themselves and others who could be affected by their laser work.</p> <p>Direct discrimination is likely if a person with pre-existing eyesight damage could be exposed to a potentially harmful laser light sources.</p>	<p>If lasers are operated and not contained or which require a specific line of sight or positioning, persons with pre-existing eye damage could place themselves at greater risk. This would particularly be the case if a person already had damage in one eye and was reliant on the undamaged eye.</p> <p>In such circumstances the risk assessment will seek to enable the person to participate safely,</p>

		<p>for example adjusted controls / direct supervision.</p> <p>Preventing a person undertaking higher-risk activity may be required but this would only be taken as a last resort.</p>
<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> 	<p>There are no obvious ways in which the Policy could further advance equality</p>	
<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> 		
<p>Based on the above assessment, what course of action is required?</p>		
<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>	<p>No changes required in the Policy</p>	
<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>	
<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></p>	

<p>How will the actual impact of the project, policy or practice be monitored once it has been implemented?</p>
<p>The Policy will be reviewed by the H&S Task Group, as per the schedule of policy review.</p>

<p>Publication This Equality Impact Assessment will be published – on the H&S website once a new page is established</p>
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