

Equality Impact Assessment of the review of H&S Policy on Use of X-ray Sets

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 staff and students working with ionising radiation (open sources) as part of their work and / or studies.

Project Title	Review of existing H&S Policy on Use of X-ray Sets
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> 	Although the Policy itself does not treat any person differently, there are specific requirements of the Ionising Radiation Regulations and the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations, which must be adhered to. If x-raying human participants, all requirements of the relevant NHS Ethics Approval must also be complied with. These stipulations will be absolute and must be followed.	Risk Assessments, Local Rules and if required, Ethical Approvals should always suitably assess the potential radiation doses if operating x-ray sets, if participating in a research study where x-rays will be taken and / or those who could be impacted on if in the vicinity of an x-ray whilst in operation.

	<p>This includes x-raying of new and expectant mothers and young persons to safeguard their health, safety and well-being.</p> <p>In addition, persons who could exceed stipulated dose constraints if x-rayed as part of a University related x-ray activity could be excluded from an activity.</p> <p>Consideration must also be given to those who could be impacted upon if in the vicinity of an x-ray set whilst in operation.</p>	<p>Associated X-ray activity documents and the specific training that must be undertaken by any x-ray set operator should ensure the health, safety and well-being of all persons who could be affected.</p> <p>Potential doses will be assessed by competent persons e.g. the University Radiation Protection Advisor, the NHS Medical Physics Expert.</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>The policy aims to support and safeguard individuals, whatever their needs. It also aims to encourage dialogue and consideration of all of the factors.</p>	
<p>Based on the above assessment, what course of action is required?</p>		
<p>No major change required</p>	<p>No changes required in the Policy</p>	

<p><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>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 Health, Safety & Emergency Management Task Group, as per the schedule of policy review and / or as legislative requirements change.</p>

<p>Publication This Equality Impact Assessment will be published – on the H&S website</p>
