



Consultation Response Draft Equality Action Plan 2026-2028

For more information, please contact

Equality Unit, Corporate Services
Waterways Ireland
2 Sligo Road
Enniskillen
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Tel: 028 6632 3004

Email: equality.user@waterwaysireland.org

This document can be made available in a range of formats upon request. Please contact us with your requirements through the above contact details.



Purpose of this Consultation

Waterways Ireland's Equality Scheme was approved by the Equality Commission in April 2013 which was revised and approved in May 2024.

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires Waterways Ireland to comply with two statutory duties: the Equality of Opportunity Duty and the Good Relations Duty.

As a North-South Body, it is also intended that delivery of the measures in this Action Plan will address the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Act 2014. This Public Sector Duty places a responsibility on all public sector bodies in Ireland to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of our employees, customers, service users and everyone affected by our policies and plans.

The Draft Equality Action Plan 2026-2028 has been designed to provide a framework to guide Waterways Ireland's actions. It also outlines the way in which Waterways Ireland plans to promote equality of opportunity and good relations throughout its services and functions.

This Equality Action Plan 2026-2028 has been linked to the Waterways Ireland Corporate Plan 2026-2028 planning cycle and four themes have been identified:

1. Promote awareness of the Equality Agenda among Waterways Ireland staff.
2. Provide a working environment where employees are treated with fairness, dignity and respect.
3. Attract, recruit and retain a diverse range of employees in a culture which celebrates diversity and inclusion.
4. Deliver services that are accessible, inclusive and responsive to visitors to our property and waterways.

Waterways Ireland is seeking your views on the content and actions contained within the Draft Equality Action Plan 2026-2028.

How to Respond

We are happy to receive feedback by:

Consultation Response document

Completing this Consultation Response document and returning by:

Post to: Equality Unit, Corporate Services
 Waterways Ireland
 2 Sligo Road
 Enniskillen
 Co Fermanagh
 BT74 7JY

Email to: equality.user@waterwaysireland.org

Meeting in Person or Virtual

If you prefer a meeting with us to give your comments face-to-face or virtual, we will do our best to meet your request. Please phone 028 6632 3004 and ask to speak to Caroline McLoone or email equality.user@waterwaysireland.org

Consultation Open Days

We are planning to hold a number of Consultation Open Days from 4th September until 8th October where the Action Plan will be available to view and discuss with us. Details of dates and times will be advertised on our website [Waterways Ireland | Home](#) and social media channels once finalised.

Alternative Format

Copies of this document are available on the Waterways Ireland website and in paper format. Documentation will be made available on request in formats such as Easy Read, Braille, audio formats, large print or minority languages to meet the needs of those for whom English is not their first language.

Consultation on this document will commence on Monday 1st September and close on the 24th November 2025 at 4 pm.

For more information contact Caroline McLoone on telephone 028 6632 3004 or by email at equality.user@waterwaysireland.org

Data Protection

Waterways Ireland (the data controller) has a legal duty to protect any information it collects about you.

We are fully committed to comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 as well as the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The information you provide as part of this consultation response will be used to provide you with an update on the consultation process and outcomes when the process has been completed.

Any information provided by you will not be disclosed to any other third party unless law or regulation compels such a disclosure.

Our Privacy Notice tells you what to expect when Waterways Ireland collects your personal information. This is available on our website at [Waterways Ireland | Privacy Notice](#) or you can request a copy by telephoning or emailing the contact above.

Consultee Information

I am responding as:

Individual ☐

Organisation ☐

My details are as follows:

Name	
Job Title (if appropriate)	
Organisation (if applicable)	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone	
Email	

If you would like to be added to our Equality Database for future consultation processes, please check this box: ☐

Consultation Response Questionnaire to Waterways Ireland's Draft Equality Action Plan 2026-2026

The Draft Equality Action Plan 2026-2028 outlines how Waterways Ireland intends to fulfil its statutory equality duties through its business functions.

Four themes within the Draft Equality Action Plan are outlined in this questionnaire for your consideration and feedback.

Do you Agree or Disagree with the following theme, and associated actions outlined within the Draft Equality Action Plan 2026-2026

1. Promote awareness of the Equality Agenda among Waterways Ireland staff.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Please tell us why:

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2. Provide a working environment where employees are treated with fairness, dignity and respect.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Please tell us why:

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3. **Attract, recruit and retain a diverse range of employees in a culture which celebrates diversity and inclusion.**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Please tell us why:

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4. **Deliver services that are accessible, inclusive and responsive to visitors to our property and waterways.**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Please tell us why:

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Are there any other actions, or themes, which you believe should be included within the Equality Action Plan 2026-2028?

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Do you have any additional comments on the content of the Draft Equality Action Plan for 2026-2028?

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Thank you.