

This is the Equality Scheme for Waterways Ireland



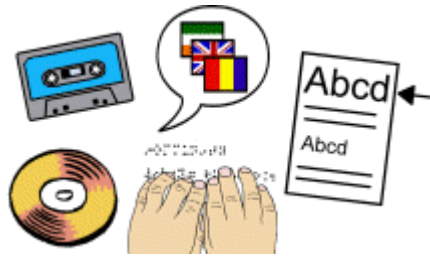
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- Phone 028 6634 6252 and talk to Caroline McCarroll
- Textphone 028 6634 6233
- Email Caroline McCarroll
caroline.mccarroll@waterwaysireland.org
- Get a copy from our website

About Us

Waterways Ireland has responsibility for the management, maintenance, development and restoration of inland navigable waterways principally for recreational purposes.

What do we do?

Waterways Ireland is the largest of the six North/South Implementation Bodies which were established by means of an international treaty made on 8 March 1999 between the British and Irish Governments. This treaty was given domestic effect by means of the North/South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999, and the British-Irish Agreement Act 1999 respectively.

As a Cross Border Body we are responsible to our Sponsor Departments, the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) in Northern Ireland and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG) in Ireland.

The Body operates under the policy direction of the North / South Ministerial Council and the two Governments, and is accountable to the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Houses of the Oireachtas.

The statutory function of Waterways Ireland is to manage, maintain, develop and restore the inland navigable waterways, principally for recreational purposes.

Waterways Ireland has responsibility for approximately 1,000 km of navigable waterways, comprising;

- the Barrow Navigation
- the Lower Bann Navigation
- the Royal Canal
- the Erne System
- the Shannon-Erne Waterway
- the Grand Canal
- the Shannon Navigation

Waterways Ireland's remit was extended by the North South Ministerial Council in July 2007 to include responsibility for the reconstruction of the Ulster Canal from Upper Lough Erne to Clones and following restoration, for its management, maintenance and development principally for recreational purposes.

Why do we have an Equality Scheme

The Equality Commission asks us what we are doing to obey the equality laws. The commission wants us to explain what we are doing in a report called an Equality Scheme.

Our Equality Scheme says what we will do to make Waterways Ireland fairer in:-

- The work that we do
- The services we provide for our customers
- The way we treat the people who work for us



We want our work to be fair and equal. We think that everyone should respect diversity, dignity and human rights.



We want to make sure that everyone is treated by their needs and not treated badly because of their differences

No-one should be discriminated against or find it hard to use our services because of:



- Disability



- Dependants



- Gender



- Age



- Religion



- Sexuality



- Marital status



- Race



- Political opinion

The laws on disability equality say we must:



- involve disabled people in public life



- make sure people with disabilities are seen positively

Here are some of the things our Equality Scheme says we will do over the next 5 years.

- We will make sure that our services are available in different ways to suit everyone's different needs.
- We will make sure that our information is easy for everyone to understand.
- We will train our staff so that they look after the needs of our customers and make sure that everyone gets treated fairly.
- We will check that our work does not affect our customers or our staff unfairly.
- We will ask different groups of people what they think of our services and information.

How we will check our progress to equality

- Throughout the year we will ask our staff and other people who look after our services what they are doing to improve equality for different groups of our customers.
- Throughout the year we will ask different groups of people to tell us how we can make our services even better.

- Throughout the year we will ask different groups and organisations what they think of our services.
- At the end of each year we will write a report saying what equality work we have done.
- We will tell organisations about our report and how they can get a copy of it to read.
- We will send this report to the Equality Commission and will put it on the internet too.

How you can

- Find out more about this Equality Scheme; or
- Contact us

Phone 028 6634 6252

Textphone 028 6634 6233

Write to Caroline McCarroll
 Equality Officer
 Waterways Ireland
 2 Sligo Road
 Enniskillen
 BT74 7JY

Email: caroline.mccarroll@waterwaysireland.org
 or go to our website

<http://www.waterwaysireland.org/Pages/Corporate.aspx>