

The Rt Hon the Baroness Royall of Blaisdon



The Leader of the House of Lords

Dr Theo Gavrielides
Race on the Agenda
Waterloo Business Centre
Unit 207 and 218
117 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8UL

10th March 2010

Dear Dr Gavrielides

Thank you for your letter of 22 February, in which you raised concerns about the list of public bodies to be subject to the new single Equality Duty set out in Schedule 19 to the Equality Bill.

You refer to Michael Foster's letter of 27 August 2009, in which he explained that our starting point is the lists of public bodies subject to the existing equality duties. You are correct that the full list of bodies currently found in Schedule 1A to the Race Relations Act 1976 has not been replicated in Schedule 19 to the Bill. However, I would like to reassure you that we are adopting the same approach as that taken when the race equality duty was introduced; namely that core public bodies, such as government departments and local government bodies, have been included initially and other bodies, some of which have a mixture of private and public functions, will be added to the Schedule by secondary legislation after commencement of the relevant provisions.

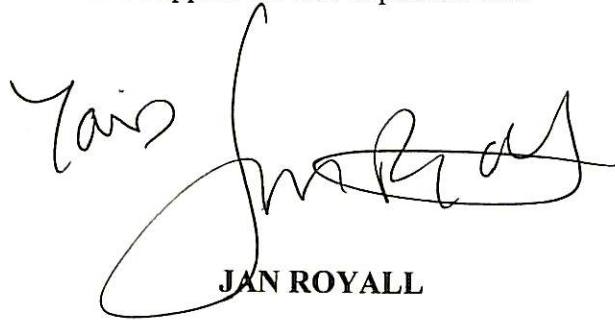
Clauses 151 and 152 of the current draft of the Bill provide for additional bodies to be added to Schedule 19 by Order, following consultation with the Equality and Human Rights Commission. Any order that seeks to amend Schedule 19 will be subject to parliamentary scrutiny by way of the affirmative procedure, except where it involves simply changing the names of bodies or removing bodies because they cease to exist. There will be a public consultation on the draft order before it is laid before Parliament.

House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW

Tel: 020 7219 3200 Fax: 020 7219 3051 Email: pslordsleader@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

I am happy to reassure you that it remains our plan to use these powers to update Schedule 19 with more bodies after commencement, and in broad terms the intention is that the Equality Duty will cover the same bodies as those covered by current equality duties; there will be no reduction in coverage. We are currently talking with the public bodies that we expect to be subject to the new Equality Duty and their sponsoring departments, where relevant. We are also planning to iron out a number of inconsistencies between the lists of bodies subject to the race equality duty and those subject to the specific duties relating to the disability and gender equality duties.

I am grateful for your continued support for this important Bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Royall', is written over a printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

JAN ROYALL

