

To: Equality Stakeholders

14 December 2010

Dear Colleague

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING

I am writing to let you know about developments relating to the restructuring of the Scottish Government.

As you know the environment in which we are working is changing and we, like many other bodies, need to make sure that our organisation is in the right shape and fit for purpose. In addition, the Scottish Government is faced with funding pressures which force us to consider how to reduce our running costs. As set out in our draft Scottish budget, we need to reduce our overall running costs by 10% next year and move to reduce the size of the senior civil service by 25% by 2014/15. To help us to do that, we have developed a new structure which will be in place from 5 January 2011.

The Equality Unit will be moving to be part of a new directorate, the Directorate for Strategy and Performance, headed by Mike Foulis. The new directorate will include the Equality Unit along with a number of other divisions covering work areas such as Public Bodies, Public Sector Reform, Office of the Chief Economic Adviser, and Strategy and Economic Policy. The new Directorate will be one of a number of other directorates grouped at the centre under the Director General Communities and Governance. These other directorates include, Third Sector and Local Government, International and Constitution, Housing, Regeneration and the Commonwealth Games.

Some of you may not know but Liz Hunter who is currently our Director is taking early retirement and will leave at the end of January. We shall miss her but are looking forward to working with our new Director who brings a range of experience and insight on our work. Mike Foulis was previously Director of Housing and Regeneration and some of you will know him from his work on Independent Living for disabled people. Ministerial portfolios are unaffected by these changes, so we continue to work to the same group of Ministers on equality matters.

And finally, we will remain in our current location at Victoria Quay so no change there.

We are looking forward to working in this new structure and to all that the New Year brings.

May I take this opportunity to wish you the best for the season and to thank you for your support and engagement with us over the course of the year.

With very best wishes

Yours sincerely



Yvonne Strachan
Head of Equality Unit