

INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: NOVEMBER 2006

What are the aims and objectives of the proposed policy?

1. The consultation paper on a new single independent inspectorate for immigration and nationality issues, seeks views from stakeholders and the public on whether a single inspectorate is the best way to provide an effective analysis of the whole of the immigration process from initial consideration to integration or removal of individuals seeking to enter the United Kingdom. It sets out suggestions for absorbing existing inspection or advisory bodies within a new body, and proposes that the inspectorate could look at themes rather concentrating on specific issues. The aim is to drive continuous improvement across the system and there deliver ongoing improvements in service and increasing assurance about the quality of that service to those who are affected by it.
2. The consultation process will run from 19 December 2006 to 16 February 2007. We intend to introduce primary legislation to set up the new inspectorate and where necessary abolish existing bodies at the first available legislative opportunity.
3. The consultation paper will be available on the Home Office website. Alternative formats will be available on request from the Home office.

Who will the policy effect?

4. The proposal for a new independent inspectorate will potentially affect everyone who uses the immigration and nationality system. The introduction of such a body should affect all those who the system equally in that it will lead to an improved service and enhanced overview of equality issues at all points of the business. The full race equality impact will review the proposals in detail in advance of any final decision on role, scope and structure of the inspectorate.
5. The consultation paper itself will not have an adverse impact on particular groups or nationalities.

Is there any evidence that other groups experience the policy issues in a different way? How can I remove barriers to equality of opportunity?

6. The proposals for a new single immigration and nationality inspectorate are fully in line with the Government's policies to deliver more effective, efficient and robust immigration service that has the trust of the public. Successful implementation of these policies will enhance community cohesion.

Summary

7. The consultation paper will have no adverse impact. The full development of the policies regarding the role, scope and structure of the new inspectorate will be accompanied by a full equality impact assessment.