

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY

1. Introduction

We are an equal opportunities employer. This means that we will make good faith efforts to comply with the spirit and letter of the equality laws.

We will promote a good and harmonious working environment in which our employees will be treated with dignity and respect and we will not discriminate unlawfully against or harass any person on the grounds of:-

- Sex
- Gender reassignment
- Religious or similar philosophical belief
- Racial group
- Disability

- Pregnancy or maternity
- Marital or Civil partnership status
- Political opinion
- Sexual orientation
- Age

We will also endeavour to ensure that our workplace and our employment policies and practices do not unreasonably exclude or disadvantage those of our job applicants and employees who have disabilities. To this end we will comply with the duty to make reasonable adjustments that is imposed on us in relation to such persons. We note that a failure to comply with that duty would be an act of unlawful discrimination.

2. Employee's Rights

Our employees have a right to work in a good and harmonious environment that is free from discrimination and harassment and to complain about such behaviour should it occur.

We have established policies and procedures to deal with such complaints and we would encourage any employee who feels aggrieved to use them. All complaints will be dealt with seriously, promptly and confidentially.

Employees who make complaints of discrimination and harassment, and others who give evidence or information in connection with such complaints, will not be victimised (i.e. they will not be discriminated against or harassed in retaliation for their actions). Victimisation is also discrimination contrary to the quality laws and this policy.

3. Employees' Responsibilities

All our employees must comply with this policy. They must treat each other with dignity and respect. They must not themselves commit any acts of unlawful discrimination or harassment against any other person, such as job applicants, colleagues, service partners, contractors or





our customers. Such behaviour will not be permitted or condoned. We will treat it as misconduct which may warrant dismissal from employment.

All our employees should discourage discrimination and harassment by making it clear that they find such behaviour unacceptable and by supporting co-workers who suffer such treatment. Any employee who is aware of any incident of discrimination and harassment should alert a manager or supervisor to enable us to deal with it.

4. Employer's Responsibilities

We will continually make good faith efforts to implement this policy. It is the responsibility **of** all managers to ensure this practice is applied. We will:-

- provide all employees and managers with a copy of this policy and explain it to the them.
- ensure that all complaints of discrimination or harassment are dealt with promptly, seriously and confidentially and in accordance with our internal grievance procedure.
- set a good example by treating employees with fairness, dignity and respect.
- be alert to unacceptable behaviour and will take appropriate action to stop it.
- monitor all incidents of discrimination and harassment and review the effectiveness of this policy periodically.

5. Monitoring and Review

We are registered with the Equality Commission for the purpose of the Fair Employment & Treatment (NI) Order 1998. As such we are obliged to monitor the community background and sex of our job applicants and workforce. We are also obliged to review the composition of our workforce and our employment policies and practices every three years and, where appropriate, to consider taking affirmative action to promote fair participation between members of the Protestant and Roman Catholic communities. We are committed to complying with our legal duties.

Publication Date: March 2020 Issue No: 05

