

GEO Equality Survey 2011 - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the Equality Survey for?

The Equality Act 2010 came into force in October 2010. It replaced previous anti-discrimination legislation with a single act to make the law simpler, remove inconsistencies and to provide better protection against discrimination.

The Government Equalities Office (GEO) is interested in finding out about practices in different organisations and their approach to equality, and what impact the Equality Act may have had on organisations' policies and processes.

Why is the survey important?

The results from this survey are very important to government. They will be used as part of the official review of the Equality Act, which will help us understand how the Act is working in reality for organisations and where there are still issues to be resolved.

Who is conducting the survey?

BMG Research, working in partnership with the Centre for Research in Social Policy (CRSP) and International Centre for Public and Social Policy (IcPSP), is conducting the survey on behalf of GEO.

Who are BMG Research, CRSP and IcPSP?

- **BMG Research**

BMG Research is a research company based in Birmingham specialising in learning and skills, social and commercial research. BMG is a full member of the Market Research Society (MRS) and bound by the MRS Code of Conduct:

<http://www.bmgresearch.co.uk>

The MRS Code of Conduct can be downloaded from:

<http://www.mrs.org.uk/standards/codeconduct.htm>

- **The Centre for Research in Social Policy (CRSP)**

Based at Loughborough University, The Centre for Research in Social Policy (CRSP) is an autonomous research centre with an international reputation for high quality applied policy research:

<http://www.crsp.ac.uk/>

- **The International Centre for Public and Social Policy (IcPSP)**

The Centre is based in the School of Sociology and Social Policy at The University of Nottingham. It brings together research and teaching expertise in public and social policy:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/sociology/research/research-groups/int-ctre-public-socialpolicy.aspx>

Using BMG Research, CRSP and IcPSP provides an independent viewpoint in reporting the findings of the survey. It also ensures that all information provided by respondents will be confidential and anonymous.

When is the survey taking place?

The main survey period is from 21st November 2011 to 6th January 2012, although some organisations will be invited to take part in a pilot in early November.

How will the survey be undertaken?

2,000 telephone interviews will be undertaken with organisations across England, Scotland and Wales. A wide range of organisations will be contacted including those in the private, public and voluntary sectors.

Whilst organisations will be randomly selected, targets will be set by size of business (number of employees) and industry sector to ensure a representative sample in each nation.

Interviews will last around 20 minutes, and cover a range of issues including organisations' general approach to equality, awareness and understanding of the 2010 Equality Act, and how the act has impacted on organisations.

At each organisation's site, BMG Research will be speaking to the most senior person who is responsible for staff or personnel matters. Contact information about organisations will be purchased from an external supplier, Experian:

<http://www.experian.co.uk/about-us/our-business/index.html>

Will respondents or organisations be identified to GEO?

Any information you give to us will be treated in the strictest confidence, in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

At no point will GEO know who did and didn't complete the survey. This information is held by BMG Research only. Results will be reported to GEO anonymously, as percentages of responses to different questions.

This survey is not about checking up on individual organisation's compliance with the law; it is to help understand how the Equality Act is working for different types of organisations.

Will the results be published?

Yes, results from the survey will be published on the Government Equalities Office web-site once the results have been finalised.

Who should respondents contact if they need more information?

Should you have any questions about the survey please contact either of the following:

- Linda Balodis, Account Manager at BMG Research (phone 0121 3336006, email linda.balodis@bmgresearch.co.uk)
- Sarah Morgan at Government Equalities Office, Home Office (phone 0207 035 3999, email sarah.morgan@geo.qsi.gov.uk)