



The Leader of the House of Lords

Trevor Phillips
Chair
Equality and Human Rights Commission
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DEAR TREVOR

I am writing to highlight how important we believe the Equality Bill's new public sector Equality Duty will be in addressing the issues that have been raised with us, throughout the passage of the Bill, about poor services for children of some ages, negative attitudes towards children and a lack of attention to children's views. Children's representatives have stressed that, to secure the best outcome for children from the new legislation, there should be guidance for public bodies dealing specifically with their needs and experiences as well as information produced in a suitable format for children.

The Commission has a crucial role to play here. I would therefore be grateful if you would consider - with relevant stakeholders, including children - how the guidance and code of practice on the Equality Duty can address specifically issues of relevance to children, including age, and more generally what sort of information would be most useful for children.

The Commission is also ideally placed to look at the impact of the equality legislation on children through its general monitoring duties under Section 11 of the Equality Act 2006, in its triennial reviews and by using its inquiry powers. I would urge you to make children a specific focus as you carry out these functions.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

JAN ROYALL