

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (the Act) requires public authorities to comply with two statutory duties:

Section 75 (1)

In carrying out functions relating to Northern Ireland public bodies are required to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between

- persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation
- men and women generally
- persons with a disability and persons without
- persons with dependants and persons without.

Section 75 (2)

In addition, without prejudice to the obligations above, in carrying out its functions in relation to Northern Ireland public authorities are required to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

The equality duty is given stronger legal weight than the good relations duty as the term “due regard” was intended to be and is, stronger than “regard.

“Functions” include the “powers and duties” of a public authority¹.

This includes our employment and procurement functions.

Please see below under “Who we are and what we do” for a detailed explanation of our functions.

Schedule 9 4 (1) of the Act requires public authorities to set out in an equality scheme how it proposes to fulfil the duties imposed by Section 75 in relation to its relevant functions. This equality *scheme is intended* to fulfil that statutory requirement

¹ Section 98 (1) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.