

**DWP Communications  
Diversity and Equality  
Centre of Expertise**

**Equality Impact Assessment  
Ethnic Minority Working Party**

# **Equality Impact Assessment for Ethnic Minority Working Party**

## **Purpose and aims of the proposal**

The proposal is to close the DWP Ethnic Minority Working Party (EMWP). The EMWP was set up some years ago to support the DWP Ethnic Minority Forum by looking in more detail at the issues raised at the Forum.

The DWP Ethnic Minority Forum no longer exists (the last one was in 2007) following a review of the Forum programme where there was strong support to move away from the customer group events to four events that cover the whole Department's agenda each year.

In addition there are a lot of issues raised which are not 'ethnic minority specific' and which should be dealt with by other already existing feedback mechanisms across DWP . Based on this there is no longer justification for the EMWP.

## **Impact of closing the EMWP**

### **Consultation and involvement**

Members of EMWP and DWP internal stakeholders have been consulted on the decision to wind up the EMWP. The overall consensus is that the Working Party has now outlived its original purpose, and that it should be disbanded. Members will benefit by the reduction in the number of meetings they need to attend to address DWP business.

In addition, the members of EMWP are from voluntary organisations who have limited funding and resources, which has prevented many of them from attending this national meeting on a regular basis.

## **Next steps**

DWP staff and colleagues in our Agencies have been asked to ensure that they capture the perspective of ethnic minority organisations in their ongoing consultative activity, and have provided the former EMWP members with details of other existing channels to feed back to us on any issues that they have. Two members of the EMWP will be invited to join the DWP Policy and Strategy Forum to make sure that there is a forum which will still capture issues and views.

We will review the effectiveness of this approach in September 2010.

## **Name and Contact Details of the Officer responsible for the assessment**

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