

Your Ref

Our Ref

19 January 2005

Dear All

## **EMPLOYERS' FORUM DISABILITY STANDARD**

You may already have received a copy (or at least be aware of) a letter sent out by the Employers' Forum on Disability giving information about the Disability Standard they are offering. If you have not, then this letter is sent to you by way of giving you information about the scheme.

The Disability Standard is a management tool that enables both the public and private sectors to accurately measure their performance on disability and put in place action plans that deliver real organisational improvements.

As you will be aware from 2006, the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) will be extended to cover public functions, and public sector authorities will have a duty to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people. Modelled on the duty to promote race equality introduced by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, the duty to promote disability equality is likely to require you to design and implement a Disability Equality Scheme.

DCMS has agreed to join the Disability Standard's Scheme, as we see this as a good opportunity to be independently benchmarked both within our Department and with other organisations. This also supports our continued commitment to the DCMS Disability Framework which both we and our NDPBs are working together to take forward.

If you require any further information please see the Employers' Forum on Disability website at [www.employers-forum.co.uk](http://www.employers-forum.co.uk). Alternatively you can contact Aletheia Gentle or Jim Green on 020 7403 3020 or e-mail: [altheia.gentle@employers-forum.co.uk](mailto:altheia.gentle@employers-forum.co.uk), or [jim.green@employers-forum.co.uk](mailto:jim.green@employers-forum.co.uk)

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