

Profile of Partner Equality Body

Name:

Disability Rights Commission

Address:

3rd Floor, Fox Court, 14 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8HN

Tel: 020 7543 7000

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Textphone: 020 7543 7002

www.drc-gb.org

Other offices in: Manchester, Edinburgh, Wales, Stratford-upon-Avon

Date established:

April 2000

Mode of establishment:

Primary legislation - Disability Rights Commission Act 1999

<http://www.drc-gb.org/thelaw/drcact.asp>

Status:

Independent Non-departmental Public Body

Mandate/objectives:

Working to eliminate discrimination against disabled people

Promoting equality of opportunity for disabled people

Encouraging good practice in the treatment of disabled people

Advising the government on the working of the legislation

<http://www.drc-gb.org/thelaw/drcact.asp>

Grounds of Discrimination covered:

Disability Discrimination only

Competences and responsibilities:

The commission may carry out research; provide advice and information; advise the government on the law; provide legal assistance to individuals; carry out formal investigations; enter into binding agreements; bring injunctive proceedings for persistent discrimination; provide conciliation services for disputes under certain parts of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995; and produce codes of practice on the legislation.

Main activities:

As above. The Commission carried out a major investigation into the accessibility of websites to disabled people; and is presently conducting an investigation into health provision for those with learning disabilities and mental health issues. It has brought a number of seminal cases under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995; published a

review of the legislation calling for changes to be made (many of which have now been made); and has carried out significant policy work in the disability field. It has also issued a number of Codes of Practice which explain the practicalities of the legislation.

Publications:

An e-bulletin and a magazine, accessible via the website www.drc-gb.org

Management:

The Board shall consist of not less than 10 and not more than 15 Commissioners including the Chair. The Board establishes the overall strategic direction of the DRC.

Nomination of senior staff and board:

The Chair and Commissioners are appointed by the Secretary of State, and appointments are time limited – minimum of 2 years and maximum of 5 years.

Number of Staff:

192

Budget:

The total budget for 2004/2005 was £16,270,000. It is allocated by our government department, the Department for Work and Pensions

Accountability:

No requirement to report to Parliament. Accountable to the DWP, as a non-departmental public body

Project contact person:

Joint contacts:

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