

Institute of Equality & Diversity Practitioners

2 Old College Court,
29 Priory Street,
Ware,
Hertfordshire
SG12 0DE
Tel: 0844 482 7263
Fax: 0845 612 2061
Email: info@iedp.org.uk
Web: www.iedp.org.uk

Jonathan Rees
Government Equalities Office

30.10.2012

Freedom of Information Request

Dear Jonathan

I hope that you are well. I write to request information about the terms of the review of S149 of the Equality Act 2010 and to know the names of those who make up the Review panel. You will appreciate that this is of particular relevance to the members of the Institute and we are keen to ensure that the lessons of the period prior to the duty being extended to all public authorities rather than just Local Government are recognised. You will no doubt recall the pain and anguish Doreen and Neville Lawrence experienced in the years between their son's murder in 1993 and the extension of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 to include the police and other Public Sector bodies. It was only use of the law that allowed the family to get to the truth of how the police had investigated the initial case. We are aware of several cases in which disabled people and or their representatives have used s149 to obtain equality of outcome not only for themselves but for other disabled people.

It is against the background of knowledge of cases that we seek reassurance that nothing is contained in the terms of reference which might have the effect of stopping the advance of equality.

I look forward to your speedy response.

Yours sincerely



Linda Bellos OBE
Chair