

59108 EQIA Governance and Monitoring

I am writing to request information regarding the Council's management of Equality Impact Assessments (EQIAs).

Please provide responses to the following 5 questions for the financial year 2024/25:

Central Oversight:

Please confirm if the Council holds a centralised register of all EQIAs completed by all departments.

If YES, please provide a copy of this list.

If NO, please provide the risk register entry or policy that details how the Council monitors EQIA compliance.

Please note that the Council uses Integrated Impact Assessments, which include an impact on equality. IIAs are centrally recorded on our IIA Directory which is published on our website at:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/directory/10244/equalities-impact-assessments>

Consultation:

Of the EQIAs completed in this period, how many included a public consultation period of less than 6 weeks?

As above, this information can be found in the published IIA Directory.

Cost of Challenge:

In the last 3 financial years, what was the total amount (£) paid to external legal counsel regarding Judicial Reviews on equality grounds?

Additionally, how many Stage 2 Corporate Complaints were received where 'discrimination' or 'failure to consider needs' was the primary subject?

In terms of external legal counsel costs, unfortunately, we are unable to provide the information requested because it is not separately held by the Council.

In the course of Judicial Review proceedings various strands of argument may be advanced, including relating to equalities. The City of Edinburgh Council does not maintain a record or classification of Judicial Reviews according to strands of argument advanced and therefore cannot ascribe costs accordingly. The information requested is not held.

In terms of Corporate Complaints, for the period April 2024 to March 2025 there was a total of nine Stage 2 complaints across the Council where 'discrimination' or 'failure to consider needs' was the primary subject.

One was upheld, six were not upheld and two were partially upheld.

Sign-Off:

Please provide a list of the 5 EQIAs with the highest financial impact (e.g., related to the Annual Budget) completed in the last financial year. For each, state the date drafting was completed and the date of Cabinet approval.

Please refer to the 'Budget proposals 2025-26' published on our website at:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/directory/10244/integrated-impact-assessments-iaa-/category/10568>

This was reported to the Council Budget meeting on 20 February 2025. Draft reports were completed and published on 13 February 2025:

Links to reports:

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=150&MId=7296&Ver=4>

Monitoring:

Please provide the Council's formal policy for post-implementation monitoring of EQIAs. If no such policy exists, please confirm this.

The City of Edinburgh Council's IIA Guidance is attached. This includes information on post-implementation monitoring. Please note that this Guidance is currently being updated.