

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed claim for Judicial Review – EHRC Interim Update

Request for extension of time to respond

I write on behalf of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) in relation to your letter before action (LBA) received on 16 May 2025.

In the last paragraph of your LBA you have requested a reply to your LBA by 4pm on 23 May 2025. This is shorter than the usual 14-day timeframe specified in paragraph 20 of the Pre-Action Protocol for Judicial Review (PAP). You have cited severe and widespread impact the EHRC's guidance is having as the reason for requesting an urgent reply. You have also referred to the fact that the EHRC was able to issue an interim update on the judgment in *For Women Scotland Ltd v The Scottish Ministers* within 9 days of the Supreme Court's decision.

The EHRC is not in a position to respond within the shortened timeframe you have requested, nor the usual 14-day timeframe in this case. The LBA raises significant and complex issues under four separate and detailed grounds for review. These will need to be explored carefully and properly considered. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to do so within 14 days. You have also requested 'decision-making documents underlying this Interim Update, including any impact assessments, non-privileged legal analysis, human rights analysis and relevant correspondence with Commissioners.' This requires us to review a broad range of detailed and sensitive information, and it will take us time to do so.

The EHRC therefore seeks an extension of time of four weeks to respond to the LBA, from 23 May 2025 to 20 June 2025. I note this provides you with over four weeks to consider our reply prior to the limitation date of 25 July 2025 which we consider ample time.

We request a response to this letter by 23 May 2025

Yours faithfully,



Our vision and purpose

We're here to stand up for freedom, compassion and justice in our changing times. We do it by promoting and upholding equality and human rights ideals and laws across England, Scotland and Wales. Our work is driven by a simple belief; if everyone gets a fair chance in life, we all thrive.

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