

PSNI response to GOC consultation on Equality Monitoring:

June 2008

The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland supports the GOC's principle that: "*Where possible, the GOC should coordinate monitoring systems with other regulators to allow statistical comparisons across the healthcare professions*".

In further developing its Equality and Diversity Scheme and Action Plan, the PSNI refer the GOC to Section 75 and Schedule 9 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. This placed a statutory obligation on public authorities in carrying out their various functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity –

- between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- between men and women generally;
- between persons with a disability and persons without; and
- between persons with dependants and persons without.

Although not by definition a public authority, the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland has opted to conduct its equality and diversity policy in line with these Section 75 requirements.

The General Optical Council may wish to consider any difference in its Equality and Diversity Scheme and Action Plan as it applies to the unique circumstances in Northern Ireland, and whether monitoring forms for that region of the United Kingdom require tailoring accordingly.

We would be delighted to assist the General Optical Council in any further consideration of this matter and attach for information the equality monitoring form used by the Society in this year's pharmacist registration process.