

Equality Impact Assessment Summary

Name of policy, function or service
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Access Behaviour Sub-Code for the National Forest Estate
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Purpose and aim(s) of the policy, function or service
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<p>The Access Behaviour sub-code on the National Forest Estate is an internal guidance publication to help FCS staff uphold and enforce the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and Scottish Outdoor Access Code 2004. (The guidance replaces the Forestry Commission byelaws which no longer apply in Scotland)</p>
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<p>Helping to promote responsible access behaviour, reduce illegal activity, low level incivilities and anti social behaviour on the NFE. Promoting enjoyable and more positive visitor experiences for people.</p>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide internal guidance publication to help Forestry Commission Scotland staff exercise the law relating to the countryside and Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. • Helping staff, land managers and visitors to understand and comply with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, 2004 (SOAC) and its three key principles: Respect the interests of other people / Care for the environment / Take responsibility for your own actions. • Providing a safe and positive experience for visitors and staff • Promote best practice and positive use of access interpretation |
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Who will benefit mainly from this policy, function or service?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People living and working throughout Scotland • FCS staff dealing with members of the public and other land managers • Business partners, agents and contractors operating on the National Forest Estate • Police Forces throughout Scotland including wildlife crime officers and prosecutor fiscal offices. • The guidance will help staff reduce irresponsible access behaviour on the NFE including incidents like dogging, fly tipping / disposal of toxic waste and abuse of informal camping rights etc. |
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Information and Data (evidence) used

<p>The Scottish Government's Scottish Forestry Strategy principles of social inclusion and forestry for and with people will be supported by the publication of the Access Behaviour sub-code on the NFE.</p>

<p>Data from the 2001 Census has been used for the equality strands: age; gender; race and religion and belief. Data for disability is derived from the Scottish Household Survey 2003/04. The data is presented in Annex 1 (attached).</p>

<p>Figures have been calculated for urban Scotland (represented by statistics from: Aberdeen; Edinburgh; Dundee and Glasgow) to compare with the proportion of each</p>



equality strand in the overall Scottish population.

Summary of Impact

Having a specific tool to help FCS staff reduce and manage anti social behaviour and low level incivilities on the NFE will reduce some of the barriers and perceived threats of visiting and using NFE for the full diversity of Scotland's population. Furthermore specific equality stands including gender, race and age should benefit considerably from this publication in the long run. FCS intends that the Access Behaviour sub-code on the NFE will have a positive impact on all equality strands.

Monitoring/Evaluation

FCS will monitor the impact of the Access Behaviour sub-code by consulting staff on an ongoing basis and seeking feedback from the public in visitor surveys.

- Short term: consult staff and seek feedback/ make minor amendments to electronic copy / gather case studies and publish as appendices / consult staff on proposed training program to support role out of the publication.
- Medium term: Post implementation review at 18 months and gap analysis. Amend electronic copy and plug any gaps identified.
- Long term: In 5 years time a formal review will take place

FCS will review this data on an ongoing basis to determine the impact of the guidance has on the equality strands and if necessary will review and amend the publication.

Further Information

The Access Behaviour sub-code on the NFE will be reviewed in 2014