

20 June 2002

## **Section 75 Northern Ireland Act – Equality Impact Assessments**

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires USEL (Ulster Supported Employment Ltd) along with other Public Authorities to produce an Equality Scheme, which sets out its arrangements for complying with the requirements of Section 75 duties. The Equality Commission approved USEL's Equality Scheme on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2001.

One of USEL's commitments in its Equality Scheme is to carry out a programme of full Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA's) on existing policies. As part of its preparatory work in drawing up its programme of EQIA's, USEL carried out a screening exercise during the 15 October to 31 December 2001 over a period of 11 weeks. This was extended to the end of January 2002 to allow further meetings to take place and to increase the level of participation in the consultation process. The consultation process invited views from all consultees listed in Appendix 2 of USEL's Equality Scheme and a copy of this list is attached for your information.

The purpose of the screening exercise was to prioritise policies for full impact assessment. This screening has now been completed and has resulted in USEL preparing its programme for full Equality Impact Assessment running until March 2004. USEL's programme of Equality Impact Assessments between now and March 2004 is attached for your information.

If you wish to make any comment or raise any concerns, please contact:

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