

**From:** Correspondence  
**Sent:** 16 March 2015 10:56  
**To:** Willis, Amanda; External Email for Programme Officer  
**Subject:** EHRC-CU04040 Willis 20150316 Your emails dated 12 and 13 March 2015



Amanda Willis  
Programme Officer for Tamworth Borough Council  
Tamworth Local Plan

Our ref: EHRC-CU04040  
16 March 2015

Email: [A.Willis@sstaffs.gov.uk](mailto:A.Willis@sstaffs.gov.uk)

Dear Amanda

**Subject: Tamworth Local Plan Examination - Pre Hearing Meeting, Guidance Note, Discussion note and Draft Programme**

Thank you for your emails regarding the Tamworth Local Plan Examination – Pre Hearing meeting, Guidance note, Discussion note and Draft programme. The Commission does not have the resources to respond to all consultations, and will respond to consultations only where it considers they raise issues of strategic importance.

I note matter 8 of the borough councils draft agenda for June 23: 'Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation'. While unfortunately we are unable to respond in this particular instance, the Commission has engaged in a wide range of work related to Gypsy and Travellers issues and therefore to assist I have referred you to some of the most relevant below.

**Public Sector Equality Duty**

Councils have duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) set out in section 149 Equality Act. In the exercise of all its functions, it has a duty to have 'due regard' to three statutory equality needs:

- to eliminate discrimination and harassment;
- to advancing equality of opportunity between members of protected groups and others; and
- to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not.

We provide advice for public authorities on how to apply the PSED, which is an on-going legal obligation and must be complied with as part of the planning process.

The PSED is the mechanism through which public authorities involved in the planning process should consider the potential for planning proposals to have an

impact on equality for different groups of people. You can find our technical guidance [here](#).

### **Commission research**

Our research has shown that Gypsy and Traveller communities in Britain experience wide-ranging inequalities. Many stereotypes about Gypsy Travellers already exist, and negative attitudes and ingrained prejudices within parts of wider society can be hard to tackle. In addition, racism towards Gypsies and Travellers is still common and seen as justified.

The Royal Town Planning Institute Guidance Notes also point out that Gypsies and Travellers are often treated as a group against whom it is acceptable to be prejudiced in the planning process.

Please see links below to our research reports on Gypsies and Travellers below:

#### **‘Inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers’**

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/about-us/our-work/key-projects/good-relations/gypsies-and-travellers-simple-solutions-for-living-together/gypsies-and-travellers-research-reports>

#### **‘Simple Solutions for living together’**

[http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/documents/gypsies\\_and\\_travellers.pdf](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/documents/gypsies_and_travellers.pdf)

I hope this information is helpful.

Oliver Varney  
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