

Age GFS Consultation
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Consultation on Proposals to Extend Age Discrimination Legislation (Age Goods, Facilities and Services) from 3 July 2015 – 8 October 2015.

A Consultation on Proposals to Extend Age Discrimination Legislation (Age Goods, Facilities and Services) has been launched today and this will run until 8 October 2015.

This consultation document sets out policy proposals to protect adults and young people aged 16 years and over from discrimination on the basis of age in relation to goods, facilities and services, charities, premises, education, public functions, and private clubs and associations. The scope of the proposals is therefore broader than goods, facilities and services alone.

While the proposals are intended to prohibit harmful age discrimination, we recognise that some forms of differential age treatment can be a good thing. It is important to ensure that any new legislation only prohibits harmful or unjustifiable treatment that results in genuinely unfair discrimination because of age. It should not outlaw the many instances where it is justifiable or beneficial to treat people differently.

The consultation document sets out those areas where it is felt that that different treatment of people of different ages is justified and where 'exceptions' to any future ban on age discrimination would be necessary to allow certain age-differentiated practices to continue.

The consultation will help us to establish a clear and robust policy position before legislation is brought forward in this area. It seeks views on the range of activities

that should be covered by any future legislation on age discrimination, and on any exceptions that should be provided to ensure that the protection is effective and properly targeted.

The Consultation process will be supported by a series of regional consultation events which will take place in Belfast and in each county. Details of the consultation events will be advertised on the OFMDFM website and in local papers.

The Consultation document and Summary are available on the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister website at www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/age-discrimination-legislation. A questionnaire is available for completion at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AgeGFS_Consultation. A word version is also available on line at www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/age-discrimination-legislation.

Hard copies of the Consultation Document, Executive Summary and the Questionnaire can be requested using the contact details below.

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We look forward to hearing your views.



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