

# People and Equality Impact Assessment

This document fulfils the ICO's requirements to conduct Equality Impact Assessments, as a requirement to have due regard under the Equality Act. This document helps you to assess the equality relevance of a policy or procedure on one or more groups of people with protected characteristics. Guidance is also available for People and Equality Impact Assessments (PEIAs), which you can access [through this link](#), along with a glossary of issues to consider, which you can access [through this link](#). The purpose of PEIAs is to ensure that equality issues are identified and mitigated. The guidance and "issues to consider" documents are intended to assist with this, but they are not a substitute for consultation with people with lived experience of any of the protected characteristics. Therefore, you should, wherever appropriate, consult with the relevant EDI staff networks or other colleagues to discuss potential impacts.

You must read the guidance and glossary before completing the document.

Please tick here to confirm that you have read the [guidance](#).

Please tick here to confirm that you have read the [glossary of issues to consider](#).

Completed PEIAs will be published [on the ICO's website](#).

## Summary

Please provide your name.

*Answer:* MA – Senior Policy Officer

What is the title of this piece of work? Please try to ensure that this is likely to be understandable to everyone in the ICO.

*Answer:* Gartner procurement – Regulatory Risk, Emerging Technology team

Briefly describe the overall purpose of this work.

*Answer:* Continuation of subscription to Gartner, this resource is used by the Emerging Technology team to gain expert insights, methodologies, and a sense of business/commercial intentions in emerging technologies. This research tool forms part of the horizon scanning process in preparation of the annual ICO Tech Horizon Report for external publication.

## Initial screening questions

Q1. Does this work relate to an ICO policy, procedure, working practice or anything broadly similar? This includes both current policies and new policies under development.

Please answer Yes or No

*Answer:* Yes – the purpose of this research is to identify potential future harms from emerging technologies for consideration.

*If you answer **No** to this question, you may not need to complete a PEIA. PEIAs are only required for policies, procedures and similar. However, with the ICO's commitment to equality, we would like PEIAs to be completed for as much of our work as possible. This should be beneficial in ensuring that you consider any potential equality issues while developing work.*

Q2. Is this work about the explanation of the laws which the ICO regulates, or about decisions to use or not use any of our regulatory powers (e.g. monetary penalties, enforcement notices, information notices etc)?

Please answer Yes or No

*Answer:* No.

This is a tool to understand the relationship between emerging technologies and what data protection harms they may present, not a tool to explain the regulations.

*If you answer **Yes** to this question, you may not need to complete a PEIA. You do not need to do a PEIA in coming to a decision regarding regulatory action, or explaining how the law operates, as equality considerations are*

assumed to be part of the laws. However, in areas such as guidance or anything similar, you should definitely complete a PEIA.

If a PEIA is not required, the person with responsibility for this piece of work should decide whether a PEIA should be completed.

## Impact on people with protected characteristics

The issues to consider annex, [available through this link](#), sets out some issues that you should consider for each protected characteristic.

Q3. For each of the protected characteristics, you should consider whether there are any **positive impacts** for people with each characteristic and set those out in the table below. If you think there are any **negative impacts**, set those out in the table below **and explain how you will fully mitigate those impacts**. If you think there is no impact, please explain why you think that is the case.

Protected characteristic	Is there likely to be a specific impact on people with this characteristic?	Will the mitigation you have identified fully mitigate all of the negative impacts, such that there is a positive impact or no impact?
<b>Religion or belief</b>	No impact The platform presents research into emerging technologies and the presentation of data and would not explore religion or beliefs.	N/A
<b>Race, nationality or cultural background</b>	No impact The platform presents research into emerging technologies and the presentation of data and would not explore race, nationality or cultural background.	N/A
<b>Disabled people</b>	Possible impact	ICO HR policy in place.

Protected characteristic	Is there likely to be a specific impact on people with this characteristic?	Will the mitigation you have identified fully mitigate all of the negative impacts, such that there is a positive impact or no impact?
		The current user does not require reasonable adjustments. Should the user change, a review will take place in line with ICO policy implementing reasonable adjustments for anyone to access the platform as required.
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	No impact The platform presents research into emerging technologies and the presentation of data and would not explore sexual orientation.	N/A
<b>Sex (see note 1)</b>	No impact The platform presents research into emerging technologies and the presentation of data and would not explore sex.	
<b>Age</b>	No impact The platform presents research into emerging technologies and the presentation of data and would not explore age.	
<b>Gender reassignment (see note 2)</b>	No impact The platform presents research into emerging technologies and the presentation of data and would not explore gender reassignment.	
<b>Marital status</b>	No impact The platform presents research into emerging technologies and the presentation of data and would not explore marital status.	

<b>Protected characteristic</b>	<b>Is there likely to be a specific impact on people with this characteristic?</b>	<b>Will the mitigation you have identified fully mitigate all of the negative impacts, such that there is a positive impact or no impact?</b>
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	Possible impact	ICO HR policy in place. As access is limited to one user, this would be transferred to an alternative member of staff for any period of maternity leave.
<b>Political opinions</b>	No impact The platform presents research into emerging technologies and the presentation of data only.	
<b>People with dependants</b>	Possible impact	ICO HR policy in place to mitigate for staff with caring responsibilities. Access to the platform available outside core hours offering flexibility to the user.
<b>People without dependants</b>	No impact The platform presents research into emerging technologies and the presentation of data only.	
<b>Socio-economic groups or social classes (see note 3)</b>	No impact The platform presents research into emerging technologies and the presentation of data only.	
<b>Multiple protected characteristics (see note 4)</b>	No impact The platform presents research into emerging technologies and the presentation of data only.	

*Note 1: you may also wish to consider gender while considering sex, although gender is not a protected characteristic under the Equality Act.*

*Note 2: you may wish to consider the impact on transgender people while considering people undergoing gender reassignment, although gender is not a protected characteristic under the Equality Act*

*Note 3: Socio-economic group or social class is not a protected characteristic, but we would still like to ensure that we consider the impact of our work in this area.*

*Note 4: Multiple protected characteristics is an opportunity to consider whether there are issues which affect people with most or all of the protected characteristics, or where there may be different impacts of the same issue on different characteristics (e.g. the same issue has a positive impact on people with one protected characteristic but a negative impact on people with another protected characteristic)*

**If you state that for any negative impact the mitigation you have identified will not be able to fully mitigate the negative impact, you will need to contact HR to discuss next steps. Details are provided at the end of this document.**

Q4. The ICO's Welsh Regional Office has a statutory requirement to provide services through the medium of the Welsh language. Will there be a requirement for this work to include a Welsh-language element?

Please answer Yes, No or Don't Know

*Answer:* No requirement for the research stage this tool is used for.

*If you answer **Yes or Don't Know** to this question, you will need to contact the Welsh Regional Office to discuss next steps.*

### Contributing towards the ICO's equality objectives

Q5. How does this work contribute towards the ICO's equality objectives? For each of the objectives in the table below, please explain how the work you are doing will contribute to achieving this objective or state "no contribution". If there are ways that the contribution could be increased, please also mention them here.

Objective	Contribution to objective
<p>Objective 1: <u>Spreading knowledge and taking action</u>: We will raise awareness of information rights across the community and take action to ensure that organisations fulfil their obligations. We will have particular focus on groups and sectors where knowledge gaps may cause information rights inequalities or vulnerabilities. We will ensure that in our actions as a regulator we do not create inequalities or discriminate.</p>	<p>This resource is used by the Emerging Technology Team in the research stage of the Tech Horizon Reporting process. The aim of this process and report is to identify potential risks to data subjects from emerging technologies over a two to seven year timeframe.</p>
<p>Objective 2: <u>Accessible services</u>: Our services and information will be accessible for users and potential users of our services, and we will provide our staff with the skills and knowledge they need to provide high quality services for all. We will try to anticipate customer needs and we will take action to remove barriers to our services when possible.</p>	<p>ICO HR policy in place. The current user of the platform does not require reasonable adjustments. Should the user change, a review will take place in line with ICO policy. Implementing reasonable adjustments for anyone to access the platform as required.</p>
<p>Objective 3: Encouraging others: We will use our status as a regulator, advisory body and purchaser of services to influence improvements in equality by other organisations and across society.</p>	<p>The ICO will identify opportunities to influence equality through engagement and interventions for the benefit of technology users in future. The ICO is a knowledgeable and influential regulator, supported by its research and interrogation of emerging technologies.</p>
<p>Objective 4: Employer: Our workplaces and practices will be accessible, flexible, fair and inclusive. We will value the diversity, skills, backgrounds and experience of our people, enabling them to perform to their best in a welcoming and supportive environment.</p>	<p>ICO HR policies in place to ensure inclusivity. The diversity, skills, backgrounds and experience of our people are valued.</p>

## Monitoring and evaluation

Q6. What arrangements are in place, or will you put in place, to monitor and evaluate the impact of the work on equality?

*Answer:* Will incorporate into quarterly reviews with Gartner seat holder, the seat holder is a designated member of ICO staff who controls access to this resource.

Q7. How long will these arrangements be in place?

*Answer:* Duration of contract

Q8. When do you intend to review this monitoring to assess the impact of this work on equality? This should usually be done no later than a year after implementation and may need to be ongoing as part of regular review of the work.

*Answer:* Pre procurement, at mid-point through the contract or immediately if there is a change in user.

## Publication

Q9. As stated above and in the guidance, we intend to publish all completed PEIAs on the ICO's website. Are there any parts of your answers to the questions above which need to be redacted prior to publication? Should publication be delayed until a certain date? If so, please provide details for each of these questions in the box below.

You should also review the wording to ensure that it is likely to be as understandable as possible to any member of the public.

*Answer:* No redaction is required



## Conclusion and sign-off

Thank you for completing this PEIA.

You should ensure that the person with overall responsibility for the piece of work the PEIA refers to is content that all potential equality issues have been identified and considered, that appropriate monitoring will be in place and the publication issues have been considered. This might be you, your line manager or someone else in the ICO. Therefore, you may need to provide this PEIA form to that person for review prior to completing it.

Please tick here to confirm that you have consulted with the relevant EDI staff networks or other colleagues where appropriate.

Please state here who has signed off the PEIA.

*Signed off by: MA, 23 August 2024*

At each of their meetings, the EDI Board will receive a summary of the PEIAs which have been completed over the previous six weeks. However, the role of the EDI Board is **not** review and approval of PEIAs, rather overall assurance that the PEIA process is operating effectively.

For the actions which you have identified, you must complete a PEIA action plan, which you can access at [this link](#).

If you have identified that there are any negative impacts to any protected characteristics that you cannot fully mitigate (so that despite your best efforts, there will still be a negative impact to people with that protected characteristic), you must contact People Services for advice.

Please send your completed form to [corporategovernance@ico.org.uk](mailto:corporategovernance@ico.org.uk) for storage and publication.

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Status	Approved

Relevant or related policies	People and Equality Impact Assessment Guidance
Author/owner	EDI Board
Approved by	Jen Green and Suzanne Gordon (EDI Board Chairs)
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Version	Changes made	Date	Made by
0.1	Created new document.	June 2021	Chris Braithwaite
0.2	Amendment of title to PEIA and minor amendments	July 2021	Chris Braithwaite
0.2a	Amended to put protected characteristics and objectives into a table as an option to consider	July 2021	Chris Braithwaite
0.3	Added wording in relation to publishing the PEIA	August 2021	Chris Braithwaite
1.0	Links added and approved	September 2021	Chris Braithwaite
1.1	Removed link to HR team email address replaced with contact People services	August 24	People Services