

Complaints regarding Council's decision to fly the Union Flag on designated days

The decision on 3 December 2012 to fly the Union Flag on designated days was taken on the basis of a vote by the Members of Council, who are democratically elected to represent all shades of community and political opinion within the city.

This decision was made after full debate and consideration of a detailed Equality Impact Assessment Report which included a number of options. Further information on how the Council makes decisions, what it is responsible for and the Equality Impact Assessment Report are available from our website <http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/equality/impact.asp>

Complaints were received from the Democratic Unionist Party Group, the Progressive Unionist Party and an individual, relating to the recent Flag Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA). The Progressive Unionist Party's website featured their letter and encouraged the public to download it, print and sign it and send it to the Council. We received over 1300 such letters.

The complaints alleged that they considered the Council to be in breach of its own approved Equality Scheme. An investigation in response to these complaints found no evidence that the Council had been in breach of its own Equality Scheme and therefore, could not uphold the complaints.

Acknowledgements and responses have been issued to the original complainants. All possible measures were also taken to issue acknowledgements and responses to all the complaints received, although in some cases addresses were not given or were illegible. No further acknowledgements or responses will be made to exact copies of the PUP's original complaint.

If you would like any further information or a copy of the response please contact the Equality and Diversity Officers Stella Gilmartin or Lorraine Dennis in the Good Relations Unit on 028 90 270663.