



# Government Equalities Office

Rt Hon Fiona Mactaggart MP  
By email: [odedras@parliament.uk](mailto:odedras@parliament.uk)

**Rt Hon Justine Greening MP**  
Minister for Women & Equalities

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*Dear Fiona,*

Thank you for your email of 20 July, enclosing correspondence from your constituent, about the planned restructuring of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC).

While I note your constituent's concerns, I am sure that you will appreciate that the EHRC operates independently of Government and makes its own decisions on the allocation of its resources. This includes any plans it may have for restructuring and staffing changes. Its independence is assured by provisions set out in the Equality Act 2006 and it operates subject only to the normal controls which apply to all public spending.

We are in discussion with the EHRC on its final spending review settlement and hope to reach full agreement as soon as possible. I can confirm, however, that we have issued the EHRC with an interim budget allocation. For the financial year 2016-17, the resource budget is £20.415 million, and the administration budget is up to a limit of £14.495 million.

The interim allocation letter identifies a programme budget for the EHRC for 2016-17 of £5.92 million, of which £4.52 million is, in certain circumstances, subject to pre-spend ministerial approval. The remaining £1.4 million, termed 'core programme' budget by the EHRC, is not subject to such approval.

The EHRC has, and will continue to receive, sufficient funds to enable it to fulfil its statutory functions. These functions include duties to promote and encourage equality and diversity and human rights, and powers for implementing inquiries, investigations and enforcement actions for equality and diversity. The EHRC will continue, as now, to support people in individual cases where these are of strategic significance; for example, in clarifying the relevant law.



Advice for individuals more generally is available from the Equality Advisory and Support Service (EASS), which is also funded by the Government. Information on the EASS and its services is available at: [equalityadvisoryservice.com](http://equalityadvisoryservice.com).

Thank you for writing on this important matter.

*Best wishes,*

*Justine*

RT HON JUSTINE GREENING MP

