



## 3 year Equality & Diversity performance plan

## Goal 1 - Compliance

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ARB is compliant with equality legislation in all our work

	Activity	Actions	Measures of success
1.1	Comply with the Equality Act 2010 and other relevant legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek legal advice on any issues or policies which may have Equality Act implications.</li> </ul>	Have no successful claims brought against ARB in respect of discrimination or breaches of the Equality Act 2010
1.2	Comply with ARB's obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review ARB's Equality Scheme, to ensure that it remains accurate and compliant with the law and best practice</li> <li>• Review whether the E&amp;D information we collect is relevant, consistent and appropriate</li> <li>• Collect E&amp;D information about those on the Register</li> <li>• Each decision made by the Board must have a consideration of Equality &amp; Diversity implications.</li> </ul>	<p>ARB's Equality Scheme is reviewed by those with appropriate expertise, and a revised version brought to the Board</p> <p>Increase the E&amp;D information held about the Register by 4% year on year</p> <p>Every decision of the Board includes a consideration of E&amp;D issues. Where there is a new policy introduced which might have E&amp;D implications, an Impact Assessment is undertaken and reported to the Board</p>

1.3	Ensure that ARB is a diverse and inclusive organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that advertising for any new positions at ARB attempts to reach those candidates who might not normally be expected to apply for such a position</li> <li>• Ensure that role descriptions are free from any form of discrimination</li> <li>• Track data from application to appointment to identify any potential E&amp;D issues in the recruitment and appointment procedure, and take remedial action if there appears to be obstacles to inclusion.</li> <li>• Research into whether ARB should have specific diversity targets for recruitment</li> </ul>	<p>Publish diversity statistics on ARB's recruitment where appropriate</p> <p>Report to the Board on whether diversity targets might be appropriate and if agreed, annually report on performance against those targets</p>
1.4	Ensure that staff and those appointed by ARB are appropriately trained in E&D matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All staff are trained on the provisions of the Equality Act</li> <li>• Staff are given additional E&amp;D training commensurate to their responsibilities</li> </ul>	<p>All staff to have been trained on the Equality Act 2010. All staff involved in recruitment to have received training on unconscious bias in the context of selection</p> <p>All those making decisions on behalf of ARB will have received task relevant training on E&amp;D</p>

## Goal 2 – Engagement

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We engage with stakeholder from across society in our regulatory activities, including diverse members of the public and the profession

	Activity	Actions	Measures of success
2.1	Ensure that all different groups of architects are involved in the work of ARB (diversity in terms of protected characteristics, location, practice type etc.)	Maintain a database of representatives of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder groups</li> <li>• Groups representing architects with protected characteristics</li> </ul>	Have an accurate database of stakeholders, who actively participate in engagement so as to provide diverse input into ARB's decision making
2.2	The users of architect services are considered in engagement	Maintain a database of representatives of users of architects services	Have an accurate database of stakeholders, who actively participate in engagement so as to provide diverse input into ARB's decision making
2.3	Representatives of specific E&D groups are consulted on important/relevant matters	Maintain a database of that specialise in E&D matters or represent specific E&D groups	Have an accurate database of stakeholders, who actively participate in engagement so as to provide diverse input into ARB's decision making
2.4	Consultations are accessible to all	Consider ways to make our consultation processes more accessible to diverse audiences	A report is written on how effective our consultation processes are, and whether being more innovative in ways in which stakeholders can express their view would be possible

## Goal 3 - Communication

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We communicate in a way that is accessible to all

	Activity	Actions	Measures of success
3.1	ARB's website meets best practice standards for accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Regularly test ARB's website and the online Register for compliance against best practice accessibility standards</li></ul>	Meet the 'accessibility information standard' utilised by the NHS which is recognised as the best practice model for the accessibility of information
3.2	Written communications are clear and accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All ARB correspondence is regularly reviewed to ensure clarity, plain English and usability.</li><li>Staff trained on 'plain English' or other best practice writing styles</li><li>Seek feedback from stakeholders on communication style and content</li><li>Set up an internal challenge group, and an external stakeholder group, to undertake random checks to ensure compliance</li></ul>	<p>All ARB standard correspondence and guidance has been reviewed within the last three years to ensure it meets best practise standards</p> <p>Have a 'style guide' which sets out agreed principles for clear written communication</p> <p>Internal and external feedback is positive on ARB's communications, and suggested improvements worked on</p>

## Goal 4 – Regulating fairly

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We deal with complaints about architects' conduct and competence in a fair manner for all

	Activity	Actions	Measures of success
4.1	Ensure that all parties involved in regulatory proceedings are treated fairly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake equality monitoring of the complaints process to identify evidence of disproportionate treatment or outcomes</li> <li>• Seek feedback from parties at key stages to identify obstacles or shortcomings in proceedings</li> </ul>	<p>ARB publishes E&amp;D data of those involved in disciplinary proceedings</p> <p>A report is made to the Board highlighting trends within the disciplinary function of ARB that may require regulatory actions</p> <p>Feedback from parties involved in the regulatory process does not identify well-founded unfairness on the grounds of a protected characteristic</p>
4.2	Regulatory investigations and decisions are appropriate and fair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that those making decisions on behalf of ARB are appropriately knowledgeable and trained in E&amp;D issues</li> </ul>	<p>There are no upheld statutory appeals, judicial reviews or third party reviews on the grounds of direct or indirect discrimination</p>

## Goal 5 – Setting standards

As a regulator, the standards we set for the profession are inclusive and take into account Equality & Diversity considerations

	Activity	Actions	Measures of success
5.1	Ensuring that E&D issues are embedded in the educational standards required to be an architect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of the 'business as usual' reviews of the Criteria and Procedures, undertake Equality Impact Assessments on the existing and any new Criteria</li> <li>As part of the pre-consultation and consultations which form part of the Criteria and Procedures review, take equality and diversity implications into account</li> <li>Ensure that the Board can gain assurance through the prescription process that institutions have equality and diversity policies in place in terms of the provision of prescribed qualifications in architecture</li> </ul>	<p>Equality impact assessments will have highlighted any areas where improvement can be made to any revised Criteria and Procedures</p> <p>Pre-consultations and consultations in relation to the development of any revised Criteria and Procedures will have invited comments about any equality and diversity matters</p> <p>The Procedures will include a requirement for institutions offering prescribed qualification to have equality and diversity policies in place</p> <p>Consult with relevant stakeholders on whether the Code of Conduct requires a review, and report to the Board</p>
5.2	Ensure that professional standards placed on the profession are done so in a non-discriminatory way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult periodically with the profession, users of architect services and representatives of diverse groups on ARB's Code of Conduct and regulatory guidance</li> </ul>	<p>Consult with relevant stakeholders before the introduction of any significant regulatory guidance or rule which may have E&amp;D consequences</p>

## Goal 6 – Fair access to the Register

Access to and retention on the Register of Architects is fair and non-discriminatory

	Activity	Actions	Measures of success
6.1	Registration and renewal processes are non-discriminatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop tools to analyse data for those coming through the prescribed exam route</li> <li>• Undertake Equality Impact Assessments to ensure that registration forms and procedures are accessible and free from discrimination</li> <li>• Personal information in applications referred to the Competency Standards Group is redacted to reduce the likelihood of unconscious bias</li> <li>• Train Examiners in E&amp;D issues and the risk of unconscious bias</li> </ul>	<p>ARB able to report diversity data on those taking the prescribed exam</p> <p>All registration procedures have been appropriately assessed</p> <p>Information is redacted in accordance with best practice</p> <p>Examiners and other decision makers are appropriately trained</p>
6.2	Maintaining competence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake Equality Impact Assessments in any review of the Board's position on maintaining competence</li> </ul>	<p>The Board is provided with EIAs before it makes any decisions on changes to policy in respect of maintenance of competence (dependent on Board policy)</p>