



Ministry of
JUSTICE

Equality Schemes Annual Review 2009-2010



Easy Read

A white document with the word "Report" written on it.

Report

What is this report about?

A scroll with the word "Rights" written on it.

Rights

1. Making sure people's rights are protected and all people are treated fairly and included.

A photograph of a courtroom.

Court

2. Making sure our justice system is fair and easy to use.



3. Making sure people are safe and trying to make sure that people who have broken the law do not break the law again.



4. Making sure our justice system works better for victims and the public.



5. Making what we do and how we do it better.



Welcome to the Ministry of Justice Annual Report on our progress on equality and diversity in 2009-2010.

The Ministry of Justice is in charge of the courts and prisons.

The Ministry of Justice has an important role to play in making sure we have an equal and fair society and that peoples rights are protected.

We do lots of different work and we are committed to making sure that equality and equal treatment is at the centre of everything we do.

We have worked hard and done lots of good things during 2009-2010 to make sure our staff are treated equally.

We have written lots of reports and plans to say how we will make sure all people are treated fairly.

Over the coming year we will carry on working to make sure that members of the public believe in the Justice System and that equality and fairness is at the centre of our work.

Suma Chakrabarti Permanent Secretary



Report

5

What is this report about?

This is a report from the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Justice are in charge of the prisons and the courts in the UK. This report is about what we are doing to make sure that people who work for us, or use our services, are treated fairly and equally.

This report looks at the 5 big issues we are working on.

Our 5 big issues are:



1. Making sure people's rights are protected and all people are treated fairly and included.



2. Making sure our justice system is fair and easy to use.



3. Making sure people are safe and trying to make sure that people who have broken the law do not break the law again.



4. Making sure our justice system works better for victims and the public.



5. Making what we do and how we do it better.



1. Making sure people's rights are protected and all people are treated fairly and included.

This is what the Ministry of Justice is doing to make sure this happens.



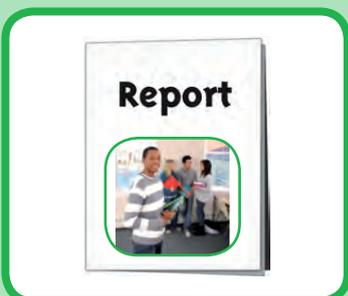
The Ministry of Justice has written a report called "Are Juries Fair". A jury is a group of people who decide if someone is guilty or not guilty, in a court.



This report found out that if everyone on a jury is white, they do not treat people from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic communities differently.



In February 2010 we asked a group of people to look at how many men and women work as judges. They also looked at how many people were from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, or were disabled.



In 2009 a group called the Independent Youth Citizenship Commission (YCC) wrote 2 reports which looked at what young people thought about voting.



We have set up a website called “Your Justice Your World”. This website tells young people about the law.



We have written a plan to make sure that we treat the English language and the Welsh language equally.



In 2009 we set up a new court called the “Supreme Court for the United Kingdom”. The court has been built to make sure that people with a disability can use it.



2. Making sure our justice system is fair and easy to use.

This is what the Ministry of Justice is doing to make sure this happens.



In 2009 we wrote a plan to make sure that our court services are easier to use for people with a disability.



In 2009 we wrote a report about Legal Aid. Legal Aid gives people information and advice about the law. Legal Aid also helps some people who cannot afford to go to court.



This report looked at how many men and women worked in Legal Aid, it also looked at how many people were from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, or were disabled.



The Ministry of Justice has started to train staff who work in the tribunal (court) for Special Educational Needs and Disability. Parents and disability charities ideas and thoughts have been included in this training.



The Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) has been looking at what has happened since the Mental Capacity Act became law in 2007. They have now made sure information is available to people in different ways.



In March 2010 the Ministry of Justice wrote a report about Legal Aid, called the “Magee Review”.



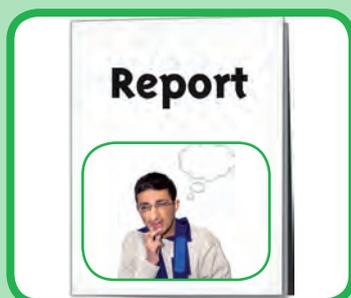
In 2009 the Legal Services Commission (the people in charge of Legal Aid) wrote its first report on their Single Equality Scheme to show what they had done, and what they will do, to make sure their services are equal and fair for everyone.



The Ministry of Justice runs a mediation service which helps people work out their problems without having to go to court. The mediation service has been made easier to use for people with a disability.



In August 2009, the courts wrote a plan to say what changes they could make to help disabled people. They also wrote a report in November 2009 to help staff know if a young person might have a learning disability and how this might affect them.



In May 2009 the Ministry of Justice wrote 2 reports about:

- The experiences of people who have mental health problems.



- The experiences of people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, gypsies, travellers, refugees, asylum seekers and people who are gay, lesbian or bisexual.



In November 2009 the Ministry of Justice made it easier to help people who are at risk of being forced to get married.



In December 2009 the Ministry of Justice wrote a report that looked at how fair the system was for people who have to pay to go to court.



There are now 141 Special Domestic Violence Courts in England and Wales. We have also opened two Mental Health Courts. These special courts have experts to help people.



In 2009 the “Coroners and Justice Act 2009” became law. The law will make services better for people who have had a family member or friend die.



3. Making sure people are safe and trying to make sure that people who have broken the law do not break the law again.

This is what the Ministry of Justice is doing to make sure this happens.



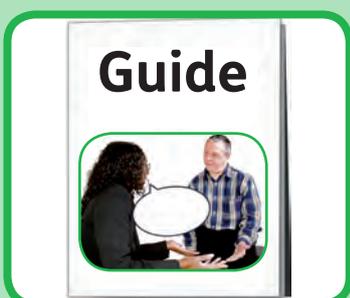
In 2009, the National Offender Management Service (the part of the Ministry of Justice that is in charge of prisons) made a guide to help staff stop offenders who are being racist. An offender is someone who is in prison because they have been caught breaking the law.



In December 2009, a report was written about ways to reduce the number of young black people in prison. It was called "Young Black People and the Criminal Justice System".



In 2009, the National Offender Management Service looked into how Muslim offenders feel about the prison service.



In 2009, the National Offender Management Service made a guide to help staff find out if an offender has learning disabilities.



In February 2010, the National Offender Management Service wrote a report about how they are working with volunteer organisations to stop offenders committing crimes again.



In 2009 -2010, all 42 probation areas of the UK made their plans to make sure everyone that uses their services are treated equally. The Probation Service is in charge of people who have just left prison or whose punishment is to help their community.



In 2009 the National Offender Management Service made a new guide to help all staff treat everyone equally. It is called an "Equality Impact Assessment toolkit".



In 2009 the National Offender Management Service set up a system to look at how their policies and plans affect people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. They also set up "Challenge it, Change it" training. This gives staff support and information about bullying and other behaviour which is not OK. A disability staff support group was also set up.



4. Making sure our justice system works better for victims and the public.

This is what the Ministry of Justice is doing to make sure this happens.



The Ministry of Justice checks how many hate crimes happen each year.



In 2009 the Ministry of Justice wrote a report called “Diverting Women Away from Crime”. This reported on what the Ministry has been doing to stop women getting into crime.



In November 2009 judges were given new powers to give different sentences to young people.



In 2009 the Ministry of Justice looked at the services people who are victims of crime can use, and how we could make them better.



In 2009 the Ministry of Justice worked with the Office for Disability Issues to make sure that disabled people are listened to.



In March 2010 we started to ask people if we should change the age that people can be a juror in England and Wales.



5. Making what we do and how we do it better.

This is what the Ministry of Justice is doing to make sure this happens.



In 2009 - 2010 we have looked at what we have done to make sure people are treated equally. The Cabinet Office has said we are doing a good job at this.



The Ministry of Justice has written a plan to look at the most important things we need to do to make sure everyone is treated equally.



In October 2009 the Ministry of Justice set up their Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Awards.



The Ministry of Justice has groups for staff to give them support and advice on equality.



In October 2009 we set up internet training to help staff learn why it is important to treat people equally and fairly.



In February 2010 we set up the Disability Task Force to help make sure disabled staff are listened to.



In November 2009 we started our “Transformers Course for Women”. This course looks at giving women lots of skills to do different jobs in the Ministry of Justice.



In October 2009 Ministry of Justice held its second “Equality in Justice Day”. This day was for adults and young people to help them think about treating people equally and fairly.



During 2009-2010 Ministry of Justice has worked with the Government Equalities Office to make sure the things we think are important are included in new equality laws.



You can find out more about the Ministry of Justice by visiting our website:



www.justice.gov.uk

This document is available in different formats. If you would like one of these then please contact the:



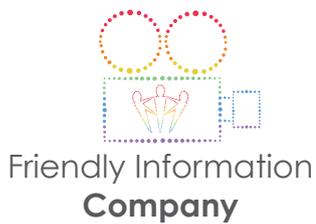
Corporate Equality Division:

Telephone: 0203 334 2562



Emailing:

anthony.shepherd@justice.gsi.gov.uk



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