

11 October 2021

## **Pride 2021 – Belfast Trust Logo and Northern Ireland Act 1998 Section 75 Compliance**

**In your reply of 17th August you state that the action allowing changes to the use of the logo were in compliance with obligations under Section 75. My question is this - To which part of Section 75 are you referring?**

In response to your FOI, Belfast Trust changed the background to its logo for one week to mark Belfast Pride and did so in pursuance of our Section 75(1) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 - a proactive statutory duty to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity.

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (the Act) requires public authorities designated for the purposes of the Act to comply with two statutory duties.

- (1) A public authority shall in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity- (a) between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation; (b) between men and women generally; (c) between persons with a disability and persons without; and (d) between persons with dependants and persons without.

The Trust has also taken due cognisance of the Equality Commission NI [S75 Guidance for Public Authorities 2010: ECNI, and the following relevant excerpts:](#)

- The promotion of equality of opportunity requires proactive measures to be taken and is more than the elimination of discrimination. It requires proactive action to promote equality of opportunity between the categories identified in Section 75 (1).
- The equality duty encourages a public authority to take action to address inequality among the specified groups.
- The Section 75 statutory duties aim to encourage public authorities to address inequalities and demonstrate measurable positive impact on the lives of people experiencing inequalities, through paying due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and paying regard to the desirability of promoting good relations.

The Trust considered that this action was proportionate, timely and in line with the legitimate aim of proactively fulfilling this statutory duty.

The Equality Commission recommend that public authorities develop action measures/action plans to promote equality of opportunity and good relations which are based on the context of their functions and are implemented through the framework of equality schemes.

In our 5-year Equality Action Plan, the Trust commits to proactively and overtly promote our corporate commitment to equality and diversity through roadshows and resources to support LGBT, Carers, Anti-racism and anti-sectarianism and the other Section 75 protected groups.