

## Equalities Scrutiny Inquiry Panel – Equality and Human Rights Commission 11 March 2018

A representative from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (Wales) has been invited to attend the panel.

**Ruth Coombs**, Head of Wales



Ruth Coombs has been invited to discuss the following issues with the Panel:

1. The role of the Equality and Human Rights Commission in Wales
2. What they do in safeguarding and enforcing the laws that protect people's rights to fairness, dignity and respect.
3. How they use their unique powers to challenge discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and protect human rights.

Some background information:

### **The Equality and Human Rights Commission**

The Equality and Human Rights Commission is Great Britain's national equality body and has been awarded an 'A' status as a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) by the United Nations.

Our job is to help make Britain fairer. We do this by safeguarding and enforcing the laws that protect people's rights to fairness, dignity and respect.

As a statutory non-departmental public body established by the Equality Act 2006, the Commission operates independently. We aim to be an expert and authoritative organisation that is a centre of excellence for evidence, analysis and equality and human rights law. We also aspire to be an essential point of contact for policy makers, public bodies and business.

We use our unique powers to challenge discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and protect human rights. We work with other organisations and individuals to achieve our aims, but are ready to take tough action against those who abuse the rights of others.

#### **Vision**

We live in a country with a long history of upholding people's rights, valuing diversity and challenging intolerance. The Commission seeks to maintain and strengthen this heritage, while identifying and tackling areas where there is still unfair discrimination or where human rights are not being respected.