

Kate Harris  
LGB Alliance  
Kemp House  
152 – 160 City Road  
London EC1V 2nx

By email to:  
lgballiancefuture@gmail.com

Friday 29 May 2020

Dear Kate,

**Subject: Your letter to us dated 25 March 2020 (received 16 April 2020)**

I hope that you are keeping well at this uncertain time.

Thank you for your letter dated 25 March 2020, which we received by email on 16 April 2020. I am sorry for the delay in our response. This was caused by new pressures we are facing across the organisation as a result of the pandemic.

Thank you also for highlighting your further concerns with us. We assess

---

**T:** 020 7832 7800

**E:** [correspondence@equalityhumanrights.com](mailto:correspondence@equalityhumanrights.com)

Fleetbank House, 2-6 Salisbury Square  
London, EC4Y 8JX

[equalityhumanrights.com](http://equalityhumanrights.com)

against our strategic priorities all requests to conduct an inquiry under section 16 of the Equality Act 2006. This is because inquiries require significant time and resources. We have assessed the issues raised in your correspondence and have concluded that they do not meet our current strategic priorities. Our main priorities are set out [here](#) and have a particular focus on responding to the Coronavirus pandemic.

I would like to clarify two further points you raised in your letter.

Your letter expresses concern that we “do not acknowledge the findings of [our] research or the serious concerns expressed” in your previous letter to us of 3 February 2020. I would like to reassure you that our legal team carefully considered all the issues raised and information provided in that letter. As part of our compliance work, we actively keep under review the compliance of public bodies with their public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010.

Your letter also refers to the consultation we undertook as part of preparing our Strategic Plan 2019 – 2022 and expresses concern that “the sample consulted was minimal” and that “same sex orientation...was excluded from this consultation.” We consulted widely on the development of our new strategic plan, including through more than 1,000 formal respondents. This is our highest ever total, and includes organisations with an interest in sexual orientation. I would like to reassure you that this consultation was open to the public, such

---

**T:** 020 7832 7800

**E:** [correspondence@equalityhumanrights.com](mailto:correspondence@equalityhumanrights.com)

Fleetbank House, 2-6 Salisbury Square  
London, EC4Y 8JX

[equalityhumanrights.com](http://equalityhumanrights.com)

that any member of the public or organisation was able to submit responses; the consultation ran from 2 November 2018 to 7 January 2019. 31% respondents indicated that the protected characteristic of sexual orientation was important to them. The Commission has work programmes in a number of areas that look at the protected characteristic of sexual orientation. An example of this is our work to address data gaps. We continue to highlight issues facing groups who share the protected characteristic of sexual orientation in our responses to parliamentary inquiries on the impact of Coronavirus.

Yours sincerely,



**Rebecca Hilsenrath**  
**Chief Executive**

---

**T:** 020 7832 7800

**E:** [correspondence@equalityhumanrights.com](mailto:correspondence@equalityhumanrights.com)

Fleetbank House, 2-6 Salisbury Square  
London, EC4Y 8JX

**[equalityhumanrights.com](http://equalityhumanrights.com)**