

Insurance Institute of Plymouth & Cornwall

Equality and Diversity Policy

Introduction

The Insurance Institute of Plymouth & Cornwall provides membership and services to a diverse profession. It seeks to:

- encourage ethical business and professional practices among persons engaged or employed in insurance or financial services;
- create an inclusive local institute which represents the background of its members.

We value and respect diversity and strive in all of our activities to take account of and reflect the interests of all the people it serves in line with section 5 of the Chartered Insurance Institute (CII) Code of Ethics with which all our members must comply.

1. Commitment

We strive to

- 1.1** eliminate unjustifiable discrimination on any grounds including age, disability, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic
- 1.2** encourage equal treatment and diversity for all existing and potential stakeholders including members, examination candidates, learners, council and committee members and contractors in all its practices and arrangements
- 1.3** encourage a wider diversity of people to work in insurance and financial services and to become members of the CII and the Insurance Institute of Plymouth & Cornwall.

2. Strategic Objectives

In order to make progress towards fulfilling our commitments, we aim to become an organisation that:

- 2.1** strives to carry out its responsibilities fairly and consistently – in compliance with equalities and anti-discrimination legislation and the equality and diversity policy by:
 - ensuring that its policies, processes, systems and procedures do not discriminate unjustifiably and consider how equality of opportunity for all stakeholders can be ensured;
 - making changes to policies, processes, systems and procedures where inequalities or discriminatory practices are identified;
 - making reasonable adjustments and changes to access requirements where possible and practicable;
 - ensuring equality of opportunity for all stakeholders.
- 2.2.** works towards a more inclusive profession which is able to provide sensitive, appropriate and high quality professional services to diverse clients.

2.3. seeks to encourage a diverse profession by taking into account and encouraging the interests, views, needs and aspirations (commensurate with our equality and diversity commitment) of all sections of the profession by:

- understanding the needs and issues of the different groups within the profession and identifying and mitigating against any barrier to exam entry and qualification and any other product or service provided by us;
- challenging views and policies which either fail to take account of or are silent on the impact on different groups in the profession, users of financial services and the Insurance Institute Plymouth & Cornwall;

2.4. develop our governance structure and organisational capacity to deliver our equality and diversity commitment by:

- working towards ensuring that the Council and committees in all their activities reflect and represent the diversity in the profession their members and other stakeholders;
- encouraging those involved in the governance and management of the Insurance Institute of Royal Tunbridge Wells to attain the knowledge and the confidence to deal with equality and diversity issues in an inclusive and robust manner.

2.5. works towards adopting good practice on equality and diversity issues by:

- actively encouraging equality and diversity with its Members and stakeholders ;
- regularly reviewing and assessing progress toward achieving its equality and diversity goals.

3. Implementation

3.1 Responsibility

Everyone is entitled to be treated equally and without unjustifiable discrimination. They also have responsibilities to act without unjustifiable discrimination to others.

3.1.1 Responsibility for ensuring that progress is made on equality and diversity issues has been delegated to the Council and is a regular item of report at its meetings.

3.1.2 Other committees have a responsibility to ensure that equality and diversity issues are taken into account fully in respect of their responsibilities and spheres of activity.

3.1.3 Each Council and committee member has responsibility for complying with and promoting our equality and diversity policy and for ensuring they have read and understood the policy.

3.2 Communication

We will communicate its equality and diversity policy and activities to its Members using a variety of methods and formats.

Should you have any queries relating to Equality or Diversity matters, please contact our President Steve.Aspinall@bluefingroup.co.uk or the regional **Diversity Champion** Claire Attenborough claire.attenborough@ecclesiastical.com.