



West
Yorkshire
Combined
Authority

Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire

Our Reference: 2529

07/01/2026

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Enquiry: EQIA Governance in Strategic Investment

Thank you for contacting West Yorkshire Combined Authority ('the Combined Authority') with your request for information, received on 08/12/2025. Your request was:

"I am writing to request information regarding the Combined Authority's management and oversight of Equality Impact Assessments (EQIAs), specifically in relation to strategic investment decisions.

Please provide responses to the following 5 questions for the financial year 2024/25:

- 1. **Central Oversight:** Please confirm if the Combined Authority holds a centralised register or database of all EQIAs completed for projects funded by the Investment Fund or Devolved Budget. If YES, please provide a copy of this list. If NO, please provide the policy document that details how the Authority tracks equality impacts across its investment portfolio.*
- 2. **Consultation:** Of the EQIAs completed in this period for major transport or infrastructure projects, how many included a formal public consultation period of less than 6 weeks?*
- 3. **Cost of Challenge:** In the last 3 financial years, what was the total amount (£) paid to external legal counsel for advice or defence regarding Judicial Reviews (or pre-action protocols) where failure to discharge the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) was a cited ground?*
- 4. **Sign-Off:** Please provide a list of the 5 EQIAs associated with the highest value capital investment projects approved in the last financial year. For each, state the date the EQIA drafting was completed and the date of final Board/Mayor approval.*
- 5. **Monitoring:** Please provide the formal framework or policy used to monitor the actual equality outcomes of completed investment projects against the predicted impacts in the original EQIA. If no such retrospective monitoring takes place, please confirm this. Please provide this information in digital format. If the cost limit is exceeded, please prioritise questions 1, 3, and 5."*

This request was handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and I can confirm that the Combined Authority holds some of the information covered by your request:



1. **Central Oversight:** *Please confirm if the Combined Authority holds a centralised register or database of all EQIAs completed for projects funded by the Investment Fund or Devolved Budget. If YES, please provide a copy of this list. If NO, please provide the policy document that details how the Authority tracks equality impacts across its investment portfolio.*

No, the Combined Authority doesn't keep a centralised register or database of all EQIAs, but the Combined Authority does insist on an EQIA being completed for all projects, which the Strategic Portfolio Office team appraises as part of their overall appraisal of business cases

EQIAs are saved to an electronic information management system, but they are in individual project area sites (SharePoint directories) which are not indexed. There is an EQIA toolkit which outlines the legislation and good practice guidelines, including a section on Strategic EQIA FAQ. Please see the attached file 'Ref 2529 - EQIA Toolkit.pdf'. You will notice that the name of the document's author has been redacted in accordance with Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which exempts information from disclosure where the information relates to personal data of third parties and complying with the request would breach any of the principles in the UK GDPR. This applies to members of staff employed by the Combined Authority whose job role is below that of director's level and who would be identified by the disclosure.

2. **Consultation:** *Of the EQIAs completed in this period for major transport or infrastructure projects, how many included a formal public consultation period of less than 6 weeks?*

The Combined Authority Consultation & Engagement team uses EQIAs to inform their consultation approach; they are essential to the work undertaken by this team.

The team has set guidelines that consultations should be between 4 and 12 weeks, with length usually determined by scope and geographical impact. Statutory consultations are normally 12 weeks. Proportionality is considered when agreeing consultation length.

Without a definition of what a 'major transport or infrastructure project' is, it is difficult to answer with complete accuracy. The team have, however, confirmed that there were 7 Local Authority -led transport or infrastructure consultations - that they consider to be 'major' - which were live for less than 6 weeks in 2024/5.



3. **Cost of Challenge:** *In the last 3 financial years, what was the total amount (£) paid to external legal counsel for advice or defence regarding Judicial Reviews (or pre-action protocols) where failure to discharge the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) was a cited ground?*

Zero; the Combined Authority has had no judicial reviews which fall within scope.

4. **Sign-Off:** *Please provide a list of the 5 EQIAs associated with the highest value capital investment projects approved in the last financial year. For each, state the date the EQIA drafting was completed and the date of final Board/Mayor approval.*

Please find below the 5 EQIAs associated with the highest value capital investment projects approved in the last financial year. For clarity we have defined the last financial year as 2026/26 (01 April 2025 to 31 March 2026). We have also defined approval as projects that have received approval to move into delivery (change requests to projects are not included):

1. CRSTS Highways Asset Management & Off-Highway Walking and Cycling Improvements – Approved by the Combined Authority (Mayor) on 03 April 2025
2. CRSTS Network Management and Enhancements – Approved by the Combined Authority (Mayor) on 03 April 2025
3. Huddersfield Rail Station Connections – Approved by the Combined Authority Chief Executive (delegated decision) on 06 June 2025
4. Connect to Work – Approved by the Combined Authority (Mayor) on 24 July 2025
5. Bus Reform Programme – Bus Fleet Provision (Round 1) – Approved by the Combined Authority (Mayor) on 16 October 2025

5. **Monitoring:** *Please provide the formal framework or policy used to monitor the actual equality outcomes of completed investment projects against the predicted impacts in the original EQIA. If no such retrospective monitoring takes place, please confirm this.*

Equality impacts are evaluated as appropriate through scheme level evaluations, in line with the Evaluation Plan Template and Guidance; please see file 'Ref 2529 - Evaluation Plan Template.pdf' attached.

Specifically, Part 2.2 Evaluation Objectives and Research Questions recommends 'set[ting] a dedicated EDI research question, in line with the Equality Impact Assessment for your scheme'; and Part 2.3. Beneficiaries advises: 'make sure to reference the



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scheme's Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) throughout this section, so that any considerations highlighted in the assessment are reflected in the evaluation approach'.

If you believe that your request for information has not been handled properly, you can ask for an internal review of our decision. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: www.ico.gov.uk

For your information, there is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely,

Information Governance Officer

freedom.info@westyorks-ca.gov.uk