

**Equality Impact Assessment
Summary of Results**

Policy / Procedure Being Summarised:	
Forced Entry to Premises SOP	
Owning Department:	Date EIA Completed:
Local Policing	3/12/2014

Note: This form should be completed in accordance with the Equality Impact Assessment SOP and the How to Complete EIA Form - Guidance.

What are the Purpose and the Intended Outcomes of the Policy / Procedure under Assessment?
<p>Purpose-The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to provide police officers and police staff with guidance when forced entry into premises is required and whether the action proposed is permissible under the present legislation, and in what circumstances should the police or other party pay for any damage caused</p> <p>Outcomes-It is hoped that that this SOP will ensure that officers understand their obligations in relation to when forced entry to property should be undertaken, in particular the primary aim of protecting life and property. It will also provide instructions on the liability of costs should damage be caused</p>

Part A: Summary of Analysis / Decisions:

What the Assessment Found and Actions Already Taken:
<p>Potential impact on protected characteristic of Age, Disability, Race and Religion/Belief.</p> <p>For those who are elderly, disabled or in need of care, the Police Service of Scotland will ensure that when assistance is requested to force entry into a property to protect life, they will do so after carrying out diligent checks to establish if the occupier is present within the locus or elsewhere. There are occasions when the occupier is unable to answer the door due to infirmity or because they have a hearing impairment and unable to hear the caller.</p> <p>There exists the possibility that a religious group may feel that they are being victimised by police compared to other religious groups, although at this time there is no evidence to support this position. Police will act to allay any fears held by a group by reassuring them that forcing open a property, for whatever reason, will be only be carried out in pursuance of a legitimate aim or to uphold an Article 2 right to protect life. The Police Scotland Diversity Booklet-A Practical Guide gives officers guidance on the cultural sensitivities in relation to most faiths.</p>

Part B: Summary of Implementation / Monitoring:

What Else we Plan to do and How we Intend to Check that it's Been Done:

Owning Department will monitor changes in legislation/circumstances and assess how these changes may impact on the protected groups.

In addition they will be responsible for the cyclical review of both the SOP and EIA.