



THE MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND

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FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Member,

MCofS and Equity – Next Steps

In 2008 The Executive approved the MCofS Equity Code of Practice which we published on our website at <http://www.mcofs.org.uk/equity.asp>

A small team comprising volunteers Brenda Clough (Director) and Gail Crawford (Membership Services Committee) and myself were appointed to oversee the implementation of the code, including the attainment of the Foundation Level of the Equity Standard: A Framework for Sport.

The Equity Standard Framework assists national sports organisations to help them mainstream Equity into their functions, and ensure that people are being treated fairly and given equality of opportunities. It will also help MCofS ensure that we are meeting legal obligations in relation to equity.

Whilst the MCofS Code of Practice primarily provides internal guidelines, the Foundation Level also requires that we collect relevant demographic data from our members concerning gender, age and race. We commenced this process with Individual Members who join or renew membership with effect from July 2009.

We have considered how to collect membership data from clubs and believe that in advance of the introduction of the new membership database in 2010, that a voluntary questionnaire for club secretaries offers the best practical solution. We will be issuing the questionnaire with club subscription renewal information packs following the AGM, early in September 2009.

The questionnaire is designed to be completed quickly without the need to contact your members individually and will only request top-level, summary information:

- Total number of members
- Gender split: Male / Female
- Number of members who are registered disabled
- Members in age ranges: under 18; 18-34; 35-54; 55-64; 65 +
- Ethnic background: white, Asian, black, mixed, other

We appreciate that club secretaries may not have all this information to hand, but ask that you provide best estimates concerning data.

We hope that you will be able to collaborate with the collection of this data, and in doing so assist MCoFS to establish the basis of its membership demographics. Information collected will be only be used by MCoFS for internal purposes.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Yours sincerely

David Gibson
Chief Officer