

## Annex A – Public Sector Equalities Duty Assessment

1. In order to discharge your Public Sector Equality Duty, you must, in relation to this policy, have due regard<sup>2</sup> to the need to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

### Policy

2. This policy seeks to encourage consumers to return to sit-down dining in restaurants and cafes by reimbursing businesses who offer a percentage reduction on eat-in meals. The offer will be available Monday-Wednesday on a time-limited basis for an initial period of 3-31 August, with no minimum spend but a maximum offer value of £10 per head.
3. The government will seek to advertise the scheme widely to maximise, not restrict, take-up.

### Access to the restaurants and cafes sector

4. **Disability:** Restaurants are required by the Equality Act to make reasonable adjustments to ensure disabled people can access their services. There remain, however, practical barriers for some disabled people to access many restaurants. According to a 2014 audit of 3,716 restaurants, 40% have no accessible toilet, 23% produce large-print menus, 9% have hearing loops and 14% of the 57 leading restaurant chains audited place accessibility information about their restaurants on their own websites. We do not know how complying with social distancing guidance will impact on accessibility in this sector.
5. **Shielding cohort:** Many people who have been shielding as a result of conditions which make them vulnerable to Covid-19 may be less confident to return to busier settings such as restaurants, even with social distancing measures in place.
  - As of 18 June 2020, this group were 53% female, 47% male. 4% were aged between 0-18, 53% between 19-69 and 43% aged 70+.
  - Some people shielding also receive disability-related benefits. Where matching to DWP records was possible, 12% receive Attendance Allowance, 15% receive Personal Independence Payments, 9% receive Disability Living Allowance and 9% receive Employment Support Allowance.
6. **Other groups with higher risk of Covid-19 infection, severe symptoms and death:**  
**Pregnant women** have been included on the list of clinically vulnerable people who are advised to stay at home as much as possible. Death rates from Covid-19 have been higher for **Black and Asian ethnic** groups, compared to White ethnic groups. **Males and older people** also have higher risks of infection and death. All of these groups could therefore be less confident to return to restaurant settings, particularly where an individual has multiple of these characteristics.
7. **Those with children or other caring responsibilities** may also find it harder to access meals consumed outside the home, particularly during a time where they may be less able to rely on support networks for babysitting or respite care.

### General consumption of restaurant/café meals

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<sup>2</sup> Regard that is appropriate in all the circumstances given the context of the function that is being exercised.

## Official Market Sensitive

14. On balance, **we do not consider that you need to significantly alter the scheme, or decide not to go ahead on the basis of these equalities considerations.**

### **ANNEX B – Costing Note**

15. Last week you asked for further detail on the costings of the restaurant discount scheme. We set out below an explanation of our baseline assumption and our central estimate for the cost of the scheme. We have updated this note to reflect your new preferences and a minor alternation in methodology in the accounting for unregistered businesses.
16. These costings are still highly uncertain and subject to change, due to a range of factors, including around how widely businesses will participate in the scheme, the behavioural impact it will have and the extent of fraud and boundary pushing on eligible expenditure e.g. around purchasing alcohol.

#### *Baseline assumption*

17. Our costings use as their total annual baseline turnover data from the ONS Annual Business Survey (ABS). This baseline is VAT inclusive prices for all eating, drinking and takeaways sold for immediate consumption in the UK, including possible marginal cases, such as event catering or restaurants in hotels. This baseline assumption on expenditure, which is estimated for 2020 using the 2018 ABS, is £101.7bn per annum, which roughly equates to £72 per household, per week.
18. Our baseline expenditure then excludes two things you are minded to exclude from the scope of this scheme - takeaway food and alcohol which are worth £12.3bn and £43.3bn. This means that if just include food and non-alcoholic drinks; your baseline is reduced to £46.1bn.

#### *Costing scheme*

19. If you were to use a static costing, a discount of 40% for the month of August would cost £3.6bn if you include alcohol and takeaways, and £1.6bn, if you choose to exclude them in line with our discussions to date.
20. If you then apply an elasticity of demand multiplier of 1.28, as sourced from PwC's 2017 report 'The Impact of Taxes on the Competitiveness of European Tourism' and if the discount was applied seven days a week, this takes you to a cost of £2.5bn without takeaways or alcohol. If takeaway and alcohol within eligible spend and the discount was applied seven days a week, this would increase the cost to £5.4bn.
21. We would assume some fraud and boundary pushing under this measure e.g. inclusion of alcohol in claims or the inclusion of takeaways that could theoretically be consumed on premises. This is hugely uncertain but if we assume a 20% uplift to the cost, that takes the cost to £3.0 billion, if takeaways and alcohol is excluded from the scheme.
22. There are several reasons why we believe the cost will be lower than this. To begin, this assumes 100% take-up which is not realistic. We might instead assume only 75% of eligible businesses sign up with some not registering for the scheme due to concerns about admin burden or speed of reimbursement.