

# **COMMITTEE ON EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY EOC-08-01(p2)**

**Date: 28 November 2001**

**Time: 9.30 am**

**Venue: Committee Room 3, National Assembly Building**

**Title: Equal Pay: The Assembly response to the work undertaken by the Joint Working Group on Equal Pay.**

## **PAPER FOR INFORMATION**

### **Purpose of this paper**

1. This paper brings the committee up to date on actions taken on Equal Pay since its last meeting and the plan to take forward the report provided by the Joint Working Group on Equal Pay.

### **Background**

At its meeting on 31 October the Committee on Equality of Opportunity broadly accepted the recommendations and the press strategy, from the action plan produced by the Joint Working Group on Equal Pay. The Committee went on to commission a paper to look at the Assembly response to the work undertaken by the Joint Working Group and how the recommendations could be implemented.

2. The Finance Minister met officials, soon after the Committee discussion to commission action by the Assembly to implement the Working Group's recommendations. A detailed implementation plan covering those issues for which the Assembly is responsible or where it will be working with others, including the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), is at Annex A.

### **Considerations/Issues**

3. The Committee will wish to consider remitting to the Joint Working Group for reconsideration, the recommendation to create a recognition award for employers who have begun to tackle pay inequalities. This would need to cover practical issues such as the nomination and assessment arrangements, together with any legal implications flowing from public endorsement of a particular employer's personnel practices.

## **Conclusion**

4. Officials will now be working closely with the EOC, WLGA and Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies to take this programme of work forward. The Committee will be kept informed of progress, including issues related to the resourcing of the initiative and to the longer term work needed in respect of the private sector.