

REPORT

EIJB Consultation Response – Ethical Standards Commissioner

Edinburgh Integration Joint Board

26 October 2021

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to update the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board (EIJB) on the consultation response on the Ethical Standards Commissioners Strategic Plan

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board:

1. Note the EIJB consultation response which has been approved by the Chair and Vice Chair of the EIJB and submitted by the Chief Officer in line with the agreed consultation protocol.

Directions

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Direction to City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian or both organisations | No direction required | ✓ |
| | Issue a direction to City of Edinburgh Council | |
| | Issue a direction to NHS Lothian | |
| | Issue a direction to City of Edinburgh Council and NHS Lothian | |

Report Circulation

1. This report has not been circulated to any governance committee prior to submission to the EIJB.

Main Report

2. The Ethical Standards Commissioner undertook a consultation exercise on its Strategic Plan asking for views on its draft strategic plan. The consultation exercise ran from the 28 May to 30 July 2021 and the EIJB were asked to share their views through the Chair of the EIJB.

3. The draft strategic plan was reviewed, and it was determined that it would have a minor impact on the business of the EIJB.
4. In line with the consultation protocol agreed at the EIJB on 27 May 2021, the consultation response was signed off by the Chief Officer in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair.
5. The finalised version of the consultation response is included at Appendix 1 for awareness and was submitted to the Ethical Standards Commissioner in August 2021.

Implications for Edinburgh Integration Joint Board

Financial

6. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Legal / risk implications

7. There are no legal or risk implications arising from this report.

Equality and integrated impact assessment

8. There are no equality or integrated impact assessments required as a result of the information contained within this report.

Environment and sustainability impacts

9. There are no environment or sustainability impacts arising from this report.

Quality of care

10. There are no quality of care issues arising from this report.

Consultation

11. Key stakeholders have been involved in the development of the consultation response as appropriate.

Report Author

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Background Reports

[Draft strategic plan for 2021-24 consultation version | Ethical Standards Commissioner](#)

Appendices

Appendix 1 Consultation on the Strategic Plan – Ethical Standards Commissioner

Consultation Response

Ethical Standards Commissioner Strategic Plan 2021-24

The Edinburgh Integration Joint Board (EIJB) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Ethical Standards Commissioner's Strategic Plan 2021 – 24.

The Edinburgh Integration Joint Board supports the key changes set out the consultation document (page 5) and noted below:

- Greater assurance on quality than currently provided via targets, indicators, and review systems all of which will be consulted on and published.
- Improved governance designed to oversee and ensure delivery of our strategic objectives.
- Recruiting and developing staff to ensure consistent high quality of our professional skills base.
- Better complaints handling via a streamlined, high-quality service.
- More meaningful engagement with MSPs, local authority councillors and Public Body board members to inform and shape our work and our performance.
- Codifying a coherent, comprehensive suite of procedures which we'll publish so people know what to expect.
- Revising the Code and guidance on Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies in Scotland and promoting and supporting its implementation.

We welcome the following enhancements:

- Introduction of a statement about the purpose, values and strategic objectives and ensures that complaints are investigated swiftly and effectively.
- Commitment to codify procedures and make these available publicly.
- Improved governance and assurance.

We also recognise the value of regular reporting of quality assurance measures in helping to rebuild confidence in the Office and the ability of stakeholders to contribute to the scrutiny of this information. It is important that if any improvement actions are identified, these are publicly reported alongside milestones and targets for delivering on improvement actions.

The EIJB also supports the commitment to develop staff to ensure high-quality investigations are undertaken demonstrating commitment and the importance of the investigations process. The implementation of a high-quality complaints system is also welcomed to consider feedback and builds trust that stakeholder views are being acted upon.

The EIJB wants to strengthen its relationships with the Ethical Standards Commissioner and welcomes the opportunity to consult on its Strategic Plan and hopes to continue its engagement and that any engagement will be consistently carried out on a regular basis with both officers / members and carried out at an early stage when issues do arise, or complaints are received.