

	<b>EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES</b>	REF:	<b>PL04</b>		
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K Rouse Civil Engineers Limited is committed to building an organisation that makes full use of the talents, skills, experience, and different cultural perspectives available in a multi-ethnic and diverse society, and where people feel they are respected and valued, and can achieve their potential regardless of race, colour, nationality, national or ethnic origins, sexual orientation, gender, disability or age.

K Rouse Civil Engineers Limited will follow the recommendations and guidance of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, in all our employment policies, procedures and practices, and in dealing with customers and members of the public.

The aims of this statement are to ensure that:

- No-one receives less favourable treatment, on grounds of any protected characteristic (including age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/belief, sex and sexual orientation); or is disadvantaged by any conditions, requirements, provisions, criteria, procedures or practices that cannot be justified on any other grounds.
- No-one is victimised for taking action against any form of discrimination or harassment, or instructed or put under pressure to discriminate against, or harass, someone on the above grounds.
- The organisation is free of unwanted conduct that violates the dignity of workers or creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, offensive, or humiliating environment.
- Opportunities for employment, training and promotion are equally open to male and female candidates, candidates from all racial groups, candidates with or without disabilities, and candidates of any age, and of any sexual orientation, religion or belief.
- Selection for employment, promotion, transfer, training, and access to benefits, facilities and services, will be fair and equitable, and based solely on merit.

This statement applies to all aspects of employment, from recruitment to dismissal and former workers' rights.

We will take the following steps to put the statement into practice and make sure that it is achieving its aims:

1. The statement will be a priority for the organisation.
2. The SEQ Manager will be responsible for the day to day operation of the statement. The statement will be communicated to all workers and job applicants, and will be placed on the company's intranet.
3. Workers and their representatives will be consulted regularly about the statement, and about related action plans and strategies.
4. All workers will be trained on the statement, on their rights and responsibilities under the statement, and on how the statement will affect the way they carry out their duties. No-one will be in any doubt about what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable conduct in the

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organisation. Unacceptable conduct includes discrimination and harassment at work-related social functions.

5. Managers and workers in key decision-making areas will be trained on the discriminatory effects that provisions, practices, requirements, conditions, and criteria can have on some groups, and the importance of being able to justify decisions to apply them.

6. Complaints about discrimination or harassment in the course of employment will be regarded seriously, and may result in disciplinary sanctions, and even dismissal. The grievance procedure will be published in a form that is easily accessible.

7. Opportunities for employment, promotion, transfer and training will be advertised widely, internally and externally, and all applicants will be welcomed, irrespective of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion or belief.

8. All workers will be encouraged to develop their skills and qualifications, and to take advantage of promotion and development opportunities in the organisation. All employees carrying out work of 'equal value' will receive equal pay, regardless of their sex, race or any other protected characteristic, and equal pay audits will be carried out as necessary.

9. Selection criteria will be entirely related to the job or training opportunity.

10. We will make reasonable changes to overcome physical and non-physical barriers that make it difficult for disabled employees to carry out their work, and for disabled customers to access our services.

11. We will take a flexible approach to working arrangements. We will consider requests for changes carefully and objectively, and will accommodate them unless it would cause significant difficulties to the business or employees.

12. Information on the ethnic and racial background, gender, disability, and age of each worker and applicant for employment will be collected and analysed, to monitor each stage of the recruitment process. The information will be held in strictest confidence and will only be used to promote equality of opportunity.

13. If the data shows that people from particular groups are under-represented in particular areas of work, lawful positive action training and encouragement will be considered for workers and others from that group, to improve their chances of applying successfully for vacancies in these areas.

14. Grievances, disciplinary action, performance assessment, and terminations of employment, for whatever reason, may also be monitored by gender, racial group, age, disability, religion/belief and sexual orientation if necessary.

15. Requirements, conditions, provisions, criteria, and practices will be reviewed regularly, in the light of the monitoring results, and revised if they are found to, or might, unlawfully discriminate on any of the above grounds. We will also regularly review advertising, recruitment and application materials and processes, and this statement.

16. All contracts between the company and contractors to supply goods, materials or services will include a clause prohibiting unlawful discrimination or harassment by contractors and their staff, and by any sub-contractors and their staff. The clause will also

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encourage contractors and potential contractors to provide equality of opportunity in their employment practices.

17. The effectiveness of the statement will be monitored regularly. A report on progress will be produced each year, and discussed at Management Review.

18. Customers and clients will be made aware of the statement, and of their right to fair and equal treatment, irrespective of race, colour, nationality, national or ethnic origins, sexual orientation, gender, religion/belief, disability or age.

19. Fair and equal treatment will be given to customers and members of the public by all staff. The business will investigate any complaints from staff that they are being harassed by a customer for reasons linked to protected characteristics, and take suitable action to prevent further incidents.

This statement has been endorsed by Kevin Rouse (MD) and has the full support of the other directors.

The statement was approved and issued on 13th July 2016, following consultation with senior managers, workers and workers' representatives. It will be reviewed annually.

Overall responsibility for the effectiveness of the statement lies with Kevin Rouse



Signed: .....Managing Director  
Date: January 2021