



# WATTS GROUP LIMITED

Equal Opportunities and Diversity

Version

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# Equal Opportunities and Diversity Policy

## Introduction

Watts is committed to the provision of equal opportunities and truly values the differences in people, our equal opportunities policy is written in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

We promote a working environment in which diversity is recognised, valued, and encouraged. We acknowledge the multi-cultural and diverse nature of the UK workforce and society in general. We are committed to principles of fairness and mutual respect where everyone accepts the concept of individual responsibility. It is therefore your responsibility to make sure you observe and adhere to this policy at all times. We view any breach seriously. We will investigate and potentially take disciplinary action. This may include dismissal in instances we consider gross misconduct.

We recognise that discrimination in the workplace in any form is unacceptable and, in most cases, unlawful. Our policy seeks to ensure job applicants and employees are treated fairly and without favour or prejudice. We are committed to applying this throughout all areas of employment. This includes recruitment and selection, training and development, benefits, rewards, and promotion, dealing with grievances and disciplinary issues.

Our policy complies with current legislation. We review it regularly and will update it if the law changes. However, we recognise that equality of opportunity is best achieved by day-to-day commitment throughout the organisation. We offer support and training where necessary to achieve and maintain this.

## Recruitment

The selection methods we use for recruitment are related to the requirements of the job. We do not seek irrelevant qualifications, experience, or skills. Applicants for employment are short-listed/selected solely on the basis of their assessed capability for the role.

## Protected Characteristics

No job applicant, employee, or anyone our organisation deals with receives less favourable treatment because of their protected characteristics. The protected characteristics are:

- ❖ Age;
- ❖ Disability;
- ❖ Gender Reassignment;
- ❖ Marriage and Civil Partnership;
- ❖ Pregnancy and Maternity;
- ❖ Race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin);
- ❖ Religion or Belief;
- ❖ Sex;
- ❖ Sexual Orientation.

## Your Responsibilities

Each and every one of us is a stakeholder in the success of this policy. We expect you to make a positive contribution towards maintaining an environment of equal opportunity throughout the organisation. Please make sure you observe this policy at all times. In particular, you have individual responsibility to adopt the following (See section 4 of Watts Employee Handbook):

- ❖ Do not take unlawful discriminatory actions or decisions contrary to the spirit of this policy.
- ❖ Do not discriminate against, harass, abuse, or intimidate anyone on account of their protected characteristics.
- ❖ Do not place pressure on any other employee to act in a discriminatory manner.
- ❖ Resist pressure to discriminate placed on you by others and report such approaches to an appropriate manager.
- ❖ Co-operate when we investigate, including providing evidence of conduct which may amount to discrimination.
- ❖ Co-operate with any measures introduced to develop or monitor equal opportunity.

Discrimination is not just treating one person less favourably than another. It can take place because:

- ❖ Someone associates with a person with a protected characteristic.
- ❖ Someone is believed to possess a protected characteristic (even though they don't).
- ❖ Something particularly disadvantages people who share a protected characteristic more than others.

We expect you to treat, and be treated by, other employees and the people our organisation deals with considerately and with respect.

## Where You Encounter Discrimination

If you feel subject to discrimination, make clear to the individual concerned that you find it unacceptable. Person-to-person discussion at an early stage may be enough to resolve it without involving anyone else. Alternately, seek the help of a trusted colleague and ask them to approach whoever has caused you offence.

If discrimination continues, or you consider an instance to be particularly serious, please implement the grievance procedure. We assure you that grievances will be dealt with promptly and in a discrete and caring manner. Should you feel an individual grievance is not appropriate to the situation, you may consider using our confidential reporting procedure.

Signed:



Corrina Ralph  
Managing Director  
For and on behalf of Watts Group Limited