

**Request No: ELIR00394**

**Received: 06.01.24**

**Resolved: 15.01.24**

**Subject:** Genders and swim – Leith Victoria Swim Centre

Why is there a female only swim session on a Saturday and Sunday at this facility?

Also, what is a woman? Can you send me Edinburgh Leisure's definition of a women please?

Extremely concerned you can have a gender specific swim session on the weekend (when people are off with their kids). Why do women have a priority over men?

Finally, when is the men only swim session? 2 evening in the weekend it's women only so I assume you have a male only for equality reasons. If not, can you explain why not in your reply.

Please reply with full details about the above asked questions :)

## Response

The request was processed and considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and the information is provided below.

1. Why is there a female only swim session on a Saturday and Sunday at this facility?

Leith Victoria Swim Centre has 1 woman's only swim session per week, on Saturdays at 15:30 hrs. There is no women's only session on a Sunday. This session was originally developed in partnership with local organisations supporting women from BME communities, who for religious or cultural reasons, preferred to swim in a women's only environment. It has evolved over the years to be inclusive of all women and is now staffed by both male and female employees.

2. Also, what is a woman? Can you send me Edinburgh Leisure's definition of a women please?

Edinburgh Leisure's women's only swim session is inclusive of all women. We do not have a specific definition but are guided in our approach to this by the principles set

out in the Equality Act 2010 on gender reassignment, and our Inclusive Access Statement, was provided to the requester.

3. Extremely concerned you can have a gender specific swim session on the weekend (when people are off with their kids). Why do women have a priority over men?

The pool at Leith Victoria Swim Centre is open for public and family swimming for 8.5 hours on a Saturday, 1 hour of which is reserved for the women's only session. This time slot was identified as less busy, when programming the session. The need for a specific session was identified via our work with local organisations supporting women.

4. Finally, when is the men only swim session? 2 evening in the weekend it's women only so I assume you have a male only for equality reasons. If not, can you explain why not in your reply.

We have 1 woman's only swim session per week, in 1 of our venues. We have never been asked to provide, or identified a need for a men's only session, but would be consider this, if it was requested.

Please note that this response constitutes full release under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.