



Consultation on the PPS Victim and Witness Policy

The document can be downloaded from the consultation area of the PPS website at www.ppsni.gov.uk.

Comments are invited and should be emailed to the address below (or sent by post if you prefer), **by Friday 26th August 2016**.

By Email: info@ppsni.gsi.gov.uk

By Post:
Equality and Governance Officer
Central Management Unit
Public Prosecution Service
Belfast Chambers
93 Chichester Street
Belfast
BT1 3JR

2 June 2016

Dear Consultee,

You are invited to take part in a consultation on a new Victim and Witness Policy which has been developed by the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland (PPS).

Background

This document outlines the PPS policy and procedure with regard to the services that we provide to victims and witnesses. It is intended to replace the previous PPS Victim and Witness Policy issued in 2008. The policy aims to achieve the following:

- To describe the services the PPS provides to victims and witnesses in cases received by the Department from appropriate investigative authorities;
- To ensure compliance with the Victim Charter;
- Provide guidance to PPS staff and external agencies on best practice in the provision of those services.

The document has been directed to victims and witnesses separately in the form of two distinct sections. In addition the policy has been broken down into the individual journey that victims and witnesses are likely to undertake as their cases progress through the criminal justice process. Each step is explained in detail and the services afforded to each are outlined. It is hoped that this will ensure easy access to accurate information for the end users as well as those external agencies who act in an advisory capacity for victims and witnesses.

Consultation Responses

The PPS would welcome comments from any interested individuals or groups regarding the scope and content of the new Victim and Witness Policy.

The document can be downloaded from the consultation area of the PPS website at www.ppsni.gov.uk. It will also be made available in hard copy on request, using any of the contact methods below (see 'Further Information'). It should be noted that initial equality screening has been carried out and no differential impacts were identified. However comments will also be welcomed from any person or organisations representing Section 75 groups

that can highlight any aspect of the policy which may result in an unintentional impact. The initial screening form is available via the Equality area of the PPS website.

Confidentiality

At the end of the consultation period, copies of responses received by the PPS may be made publicly available. The information will also be published in a summary of responses which will be made available on the PPS website. If you do not want all or part of your response or name made public, please state this clearly in your response. Any confidentiality disclaimer that may be generated by you or your organisation's IT system or included as a general statement in your fax cover sheet, will be taken to apply only to information in your response for which confidentiality has been specifically requested.

Any personal data which you provide will be handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Respondents should also be aware that the PPS's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 may require that responses not subject to specific exemptions in the Act may be communicated to third parties on request.

Further Information

If you need any further information regarding this consultation or wish to request an alternative format of the document (for example large print or Braille), please contact:

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Central Management Unit
Public Prosecution Service
Belfast Chambers
93 Chichester Street
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