

Easy Read Version
July 2012



**This is the Equality Scheme for the Public
Prosecution Service**

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To get a copy of this plan in another format

- **Phone** 028 9054 4882 and talk to **Anna Scott**
- **Textphone** 028 9054 4896
- **Fax** 028 9054 4839
- **Email** equality@ppsni.gsi.gov.uk
- **Write to**
Anna Scott
Equality Officer
Central Management Unit
Belfast Chambers
93 Chichester Street
BELFAST
BT1 3JR
- **Get a copy from our website**
<http://www.ppsni.gov.uk/Equality-5023.html>

About us

- We are the Public Prosecution Service of Northern Ireland (PPS).
- The Head of the PPS is the Director of Public Prosecutions.
- We have six regional offices (known as “Chambers”) located in:
 - Belfast
 - Ballymena
 - Lisburn
 - Londonderry
 - Omagh
 - Newry
- Each regional office provides a full range of services and is headed by a Regional Prosecutor (Assistant Director).
- We also have more specialised areas of work, which include Central Casework, Fraud & Departmental, Policy & Information and High Court & International. These are headed by an Assistant Director.
- Corporate Services work from another Belfast office called Linum Chambers. This includes Finance, Human Resources, ICT, Business Assurance, Central Management Unit and Property Management.

What do we do?

- We aim to provide the people of Northern Ireland with an independent, fair and effective Prosecution Service.
- We are responsible for deciding whether to prosecute or not to prosecute cases investigated by the police or other government

departments in Northern Ireland and to have responsibility for the prosecution of offenders at court.

- We also offer a range of options for dealing with offenders other than prosecution, including informed warnings, cautions and youth conferencing.

Why do we have an Equality Scheme?

- The Equality Commission asks us what we are doing to obey the equality laws. The Commission wants us to explain what we are doing in a report called an Equality Scheme.
- Our Equality Scheme says what we will do to make PPS fairer in:
 - The work that we do
 - The services we provide
 - The way we treat people who work for us

Here are some of the things that our Equality Scheme says that we will do:

- We will make sure that our services are available in different ways to suit everyone's different needs.
- We will make sure that our information is easy for everyone to understand.
- We will train our staff so that everyone is aware of individual needs and make sure that everyone gets treated fairly.
- We will check that our work does not affect people who use our services or our staff unfairly. This is called 'screening'.
- We will ask different groups of people what they think of our services and information.

- We will have an Equality Champion to take equality and diversity issues to senior management.
- The Equality Champion will also head an Equality and Diversity Steering Group which will check progress in equality matters.
- We will comply with Section 75 duties. Section 75 covers discrimination based on the following:
 - Religious belief
 - Political opinion
 - Race
 - Martial status
 - Sexual Orientation
 - Gender
 - Disability
 - Age
 - Dependants

How will we check our progress to equality?

- We have almost 100 different groups and organisations that we show our policies and other documents to in order to ensure that they are fair and do not adversely affect their represented group. This list is shown in Appendix 3.
- We will conduct equality screening on all new policies and documents and these will be put on our website too.
- At the end of each year we will write a report saying what equality work we have done and what equality training has been given to our staff.

- We will send this report to the Equality Commission and will put it on our internet site <http://www.ppsni.gov.uk/Equality-5023.html>

How you can:

- Find out more about this Equality Scheme;
- Get a copy of this plan in another format; or
- Contact us.

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