



3 April 2012

Dear Consultee

**Re: Update on Equality Screening, Equality Impact Assessments and Consultations within the Public Prosecution Service (PPS)**

Please find below details of the policies that the PPS has introduced or have revised from September 2011 to March 2012. It is important that the PPS keeps those interested in its work regularly informed of what it is doing to assess the impact of its policies as regards equality of opportunity.

The Equality Commission approved the PPS's revised Equality Scheme on 28 March 2012. One of the commitments that we gave in our revised scheme was to ensure that consultees receive a quarterly update on policy work. Updates in future will be issued in March, June September and December.

**PPS Website**

You can visit the Public Prosecution Service website at [www.ppsni.gov.uk](http://www.ppsni.gov.uk) to access our equality information and can review current and previous Section 75 reports and policy screening forms (from January 2012). Any consultations undertaken by the PPS will be posted on the PPS website within the 'consultation' area accessible from the home page. Other equality related information is located within the 'Equality' section.

## Current Policy Work

This update lists policies both external and internal which the PPS has screened out as having no or low impact and requiring no further research on equality aspects. Where possible, I have also identified forthcoming areas of policy development where PPS may consult in the future with interested organisations and stakeholders.

Screening exercises completed September 2011 – March 2012

Name of Policy	Brief Description	Outcome
PPS Information Assurance and Risk Policy 2011	The policy summarises the department's approach to Information Assurance and Risk by setting out responsibilities, governance procedures and linking the suite of policies and procedures that contribute to Information Assurance.	Screened out
Procurement and Purchasing Policy and Strategy	The purpose of this policy is to define best procurement practice and a better and more effective way of working.	Screened out
Information Security Vetting Policy	The purpose of this policy is to summarise how the PPS implements the National Security Vetting Policy.	Screened out
Community Outreach Strategy 2012-14	The purpose of this policy is to define a Community Outreach Strategy for the PPS which supports the achievement of strategic objectives.	Screened out
Making a Complaint about the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland	The purpose of this policy is to set out the arrangements and procedures which the PPS will follow in responding to complaints from members of the public regarding the standard of service provided.	Screened out

## Forthcoming Consultations

Name of Policy	Brief Description	Current Status	Remarks
Human Trafficking	This policy explains the way the PPS deals with cases of human trafficking and associated crimes, and measures which may be applied to help victims and witnesses giving evidence.	Work on-going	Final draft currently being prepared for approval before going to public consultation stage

## Current Consultations

Name of Policy	Brief Description	Current Status	Remarks
Draft Equality Action Plan	The purpose of this plan is to outline the PPS's action measures to promote equality of opportunity and good relations.	Closes 20 April 2012	
PPS Community Outreach Strategy	The purpose of this policy is to define a Community Outreach Strategy for the PPS which supports the achievement of strategic objectives.	Closes 20 April 2012	
Making a Complaint about the PPS	The purpose of this policy is to set out the arrangements and procedures which the PPS will follow in responding to complaints from members of the public regarding the standard of service provided.	Closes 20 April 2012	

## Recently Closed Consultations

Name of Policy	Brief Description	Consultation Period closed	Remarks
Draft PPS Equality Scheme	The Scheme details how the PPS proposes to fulfil its Section 75 duties in relevant to its relevant functions.	7 October 2011	Revised Equality Scheme approved by the Equality Commission on 28 March 2012

If you or your organisation is interested in receiving any of the current consultation documents or wish to register an interest in forthcoming work, please contact me stating if you would prefer a hard copy posted to you or an email version, providing your email address. You can also request a copy of the full screening decision on any policy in this way.

Consultation documents may be made available in alternative formats, for example Braille, audio CD or disk. If you have any requests for alternative formats, or if you wish to make any other comment about this equality work, please contact me through any of the ways set out below. You can also update me of any changes to your contact details that may be required for future correspondence.

Yours faithfully



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