



15 October 2014

Dear Consultee

Update on Equality Screening and Consultations within the Public Prosecution Service (PPS)

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 and good relations.

The section below provides details of policy work carried out within the PPS from 1 July to 30 September 2014.

Current Policy Work

This update lists policies both external and internal for which the PPS has carried out a screening exercise. It also includes details of forthcoming, current and closed consultations.

(a) Screening exercises completed 1 July – 30 September 2014:

Name of Policy	Brief Description	Outcome
<i>PPS Policy for Handling Complaints (revised)</i>	<i>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.</i>	<i>Screened out</i>

(b) Forthcoming consultations:

Name of Policy	Brief Description	Current Status
<i>Social Media</i>	<i>The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to legal staff on the approach to prosecuting offences that occur through statements or posts on Social Media / Social Networking sites.</i>	<i>Currently being developed</i>
<i>Court Witness Policy</i>	<i>The PPS is required to call the victims and witnesses of crime to court to give evidence in the prosecution of cases. This policy documents the process of inviting witnesses and reimbursing their expenses particularly in light of the roll out of the joint PPS/PSNI Victim and Witness Care Unit across Northern Ireland during 2013-14.</i>	<i>Currently being developed</i>

(c) Current consultations:

Name of Policy	Brief Description	Current Status
<i>None</i>		

(d) Recently closed consultations:

Name of Policy	Brief Description	Consultation closed	Remarks
<i>None</i>			

If you or your organisation is interested in receiving any 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.

You can visit the Public Prosecution Service website at 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 which is accessible from the home page. Other equality related information is located within the 'Equality' section.

Documents will 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,



Anna Scott
Equality and Governance Officer
Central Management Unit
Public Prosecution Service
Linum Chambers
2 Bedford Square
Bedford Street
Belfast BT2 7ES

Direct Line: 028 90 544870
Fax: 028 90 544868
Deaf / Hard of Hearing (SMS) 07795 675528
Email: equality@ppsni.gsi.gov.uk