



25 January 2017

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.

This update lists internal and external policies for which the PPS has carried out a screening exercise over the period 1 October to 31 December 2016. It also includes details of forthcoming, current and closed consultations.

*(a) Screening exercises completed 1 October – 31 December 2016:*

<b>Name of Policy</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Screening Outcome</b>
<i>Implementation of NICS Legal Grading Review Outcomes Within the PPS</i>	<i>An independent review of legal grades within NICS was carried out by an external organisation on behalf of Corporate HR.  The outcomes of that review necessitate the internal transfer of staff occupying posts affected by that review.</i>	<i>Screened out, November 2016.</i>
<i>Court Witness Expenses 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.</i>	<i>Screened out, December 2016.</i>

*(b) Forthcoming consultations:*

<b>Name of Policy</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
<i>N/A</i>		

*(c) Current consultations:*

<b>Name of Policy</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
<i>Court Witness Expenses 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.</i>	<i>This policy was released for public consultation on 14 December 2016, with a closing date of 17 March 2017.</i>

*(d) Recently closed consultations:*

<b>Name of Policy</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
<i>PPS Victim and Witness Policy</i>	<i>This revised policy describes the services that the PPS provides to victims and witnesses in cases which have been submitted to the PPS by an appropriate investigative authority. It outlines in practical terms how the PPS will meet the entitlements set out under the Victim Charter. Whilst the policy is directed specifically towards victims and witnesses it will also serve as a guidance document for PPS staff and external agencies on the best practice in the provision of these services.</i>	<i>This consultation closed on Friday 26 August 2016. A summary of consultation responses is currently being finalised. It is anticipated that the final policy will be published by the end of January 2017.</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](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 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,

**Ryan McGuinness**

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