



24 July 2015

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 April to 30 June 2015. It also includes details of forthcoming, current and closed consultations.

(a) Screening exercises completed 1 April – 30 June 2015:

Name of Policy	Brief Description	Screening Outcome
<i>Code for Prosecutors</i>	<i>The Code for Prosecutors, issued under section 37 of the Justice (NI) Act 2002, gives guidance on the general principles to be applied in determining in any case whether criminal proceedings should be brought, what charges should be preferred and how prosecutions should be conducted. It also sets out the standards of conduct that the PPS requires from prosecutors including external Counsel instructed on behalf of the Director.</i>	<i>Screened out</i>

<i>Temporary Promotion Policy (Admin)</i>	<i>This is a revised policy outlining the processes and procedures to be applied when filling temporary vacancies at administrative grades in the PPS.</i>	<i>Screened out</i>
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(b) Forthcoming consultations:

Name of Policy	Brief Description	Current Status
<i>Victims and Witnesses Policy</i>	<i>The revised policy document describes the services PPS provides to victims and witnesses called by the prosecution. It also gives guidance to PPS staff on best practice in the provision of those services.</i>	<i>Policy currently being developed.</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>To be incorporated into the revised PPS Victims and Witnesses Policy (see above).</i>
<i>Director's guidance on Prosecutorial fines</i>	<i>Guidance on the procedures and processes which prosecutors must follow in relation to the use of prosecutorial fines, which are an alternative to a court prosecution.</i>	<i>Policy in initial stages of development.</i>

(c) Current consultations:

Name of Policy	Brief Description	Current Status
<i>Code for Prosecutors</i>	<i>The Code for Prosecutors, issued under section 37 of the Justice (NI) Act 2002, gives guidance on the general principles to be applied in determining in any case whether criminal proceedings should be brought, what charges should be preferred and how prosecutions should be conducted. It also sets out the standards of conduct that the PPS requires from prosecutors including external Counsel instructed on behalf of the Director.</i>	<i>The closing date for this consultation is Friday 14 August 2015.</i>

(d) Recently closed consultations:

Name of Policy	Brief Description	Current Status
<i>PPS Prosecution Quality Standards</i>	<i>The new PPS Prosecution Quality Standards set out the quality standards against which the public, and particularly those who come into contact with the Service, can assess how we perform. They apply to all who help to deliver the prosecution service, including public prosecutors and administrative staff, as well as external Counsel who represent the PPS at court.</i>	Consultation Closed 20 March 2015. <i>The PPS Prosecution Quality Standards and a summary of the consultation responses have now been published on the PPS website.</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

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