



October 2013

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.

Please find below details of policy work carried out within the PPS from 1 July to 30 September 2013.

#### **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 which is 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 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 2013:**

<b>Name of Policy</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<i>PPS/PSNI Victim and Witness Care Unit Pilot Project (covering the Magistrates' Court, Crown Court, County Court &amp; Youth Court in Belfast)</i>	<i>The Unit aims to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• Improve the provision of information and services to victims and witnesses of crime (including bereaved relatives);</i></li><li><i>• Ensure all victims are treated in accordance with the NI Victims Code of Practice;</i></li><li><i>• Raise prosecution witness attendance rates at Court;</i></li><li><i>• Drive down the level of cracked and/or ineffective trials.</i></li></ul>	<i>Screened Out</i>

**(b) Forthcoming consultations:**

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

**(c) Current consultations:**

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

**(d) Recently closed consultations:**

<b>Name of Policy</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Consultation closed</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<i>PPS Policy for Prosecuting Cases of Human Trafficking</i>	<i>The policy aims to explain how the PPS will deal with cases involving human trafficking, how prosecutorial decisions are taken and how prosecutions are conducted.</i>	<i>3 September 2012 extended to December 2012</i>	<i>Responses have now been considered. A summary report has been published on the PPS website within the Consultation area.</i>  <i>The Policy is being officially launched on 15 October, with an event for stakeholders.</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.

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,



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