



Consultation on the PPS Prosecution Quality Standards

The document can be downloaded from the consultation area of the PPS website at www.ppsni.gov.uk.

Comments are invited and should be emailed to the address below (or sent by post if you prefer), **by Friday 20th March 2015**.

By Email: info@ppsni.gsi.gov.uk

By Post:
Equality and Governance Officer
Central Management Unit
Public Prosecution Service
10th Floor
Linum Chambers
2 Bedford Square
Bedford Street
Belfast BT2 7ES

January 2015

Dear Consultee,

You are invited to take part in a consultation on new Prosecution Quality Standards which have been developed by the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland (PPS).

Background

This document sets out the quality standards against which the public, and particularly those who come into contact with the PPS, 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 act for the PPS.

The quality standards cover the main areas of the PPS's work, including:

- the provision of advice to investigators;
- the taking of prosecution decisions;
- the preparation of cases;
- the presentation of cases at court; and
- the services provided to victims and witnesses.

The standards represent simple and concise statements about the quality of the organisation's services, and are supported by a wide range of existing documents, such as the Code for Prosecutors, the Code of Ethics and a number of detailed policy statements. As such, the standards are not intended to provide an exhaustive list of everything that is done in taking forward the prosecution of cases.

The standards will also be supported by service delivery measures which will be informed by the dip sampling of cases. Details of these arrangements are included at Annex B of the document.

Consultation Responses

The PPS would welcome comments from any interested individuals or groups regarding the scope and content of the Prosecution Quality Standards.

The document can be downloaded from the consultation area of the PPS website at www.ppsni.gov.uk. It will also be made available in hard copy on request, using any of the contact methods below (see 'Further Information').

It should be noted that initial equality screening has been carried out and no differential impacts were identified. However comments will also be welcomed from any person or organisations representing Section 75 groups that can highlight any aspect of the standards which may result in an unintentional impact. The initial screening form is available via the Equality area of the PPS website.

Confidentiality

At the end of the consultation period, copies of responses received by the PPS may be made publicly available. The information will also be published in a summary of responses which will be released on the PPS website. If you do not want all or part of your response or name made public, please state this clearly in your response. Any confidentiality disclaimer that may be generated by you or your organisation's IT system will be taken to apply only to information in your response for which confidentiality has been specifically requested.

Any personal data which you provide will be handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Respondents should also be aware that the PPS's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 may require that responses not subject to specific exemptions in the Act may be communicated to third parties on request.

Further Information

If you need any further information regarding this consultation or wish to request an alternative format of the document (for example large print or Braille), please contact:

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