



Consultation on the PPS Draft Equality Action Plan / Draft Disability Action Plan / Revised Equality Scheme

These documents can be downloaded from the consultation area of the PPS website at <http://www.ppsni.gov.uk/Public-Consultations-5019.html>.

Comments are invited and should be emailed to the address below (or sent by post if you prefer), **by Friday 7 July 2017**

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

By Post:

Equality and Governance Officer
Central Management Unit
Public Prosecution Service
Belfast Chambers
93 Chichester Street
Belfast BT1 3JR

April 2017

13 April 2017

Dear Consultee,

Public Prosecution Service Joint Consultation: Draft Equality Action Plan / Draft Disability Action Plan

You are invited to take part in a joint consultation on:

Draft PPS Equality Action Plan – 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018

The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) is a designated public authority for the purposes of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. It should be noted that the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002 added the Director of Public Prosecutions to the list of persons to which Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 applies but in so doing excluded “any functions relating to the prosecution of offences”.

This action plan has been produced in accordance with the commitments set out in the PPS’s Equality Scheme. It is based on an assessment by the Service of those areas where outcomes could be improved in terms of our Section 75 responsibilities.

Draft PPS Disability Action Plan – 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018

Under Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA 1995), (as amended by Article 5 of the Disability Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 2006) the PPS is required when carrying out its functions to have due regard to the need to:

- promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and
- to encourage participation by disabled people in public life (“the disability duties”).

Matters relating to the prosecution of offences are excluded by virtue of Section 49A(2)(a) of the DDA 1995.

This draft plan sets out how we will work to achieve these goals. The plan makes a clear statement of our commitment to effectively fulfilling these disability duties.

It should be noted that the PPS Equality and Disability Action Plans will normally be aligned with the Service's business planning cycle; that is, they will usually cover a three year period, mirroring the Service's Corporate Plan.

However this position has now changed, in that the Service has agreed to produce a one-year business plan for 2017-18. This is to reflect the one-year budget set by the Northern Ireland Executive.

In light of this decision the Service has developed one-year Equality and Disability Action Plans to the end of March 2018, with new 3-year plans taking effect from 1 April 2018.

Revised PPS Equality Scheme

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and regard to the desirability of promoting good relations across a range of categories outlined in the Act.

The Equality Scheme sets out how the PPS proposes to fulfil its Section 75 statutory duties.

The PPS was established as a non-ministerial department following the devolution of policing and justice matters in April 2010. In accordance with Section 42(1) of the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002 the functions of the Director are exercised by him independently of any other person.

It should be noted that matters relating to the prosecution of offences are excluded from Section 75 by Section 38 of the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002. The terms of the Equality Scheme should be read in this statutory context.

The Equality Scheme which has been drawn up in accordance with Section 75 and Schedule 9 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002 and Equality Commission guidelines.

Consultation Responses

These documents can be downloaded from the consultation area of the PPS website at <http://www.ppsni.gov.uk/Public-Consultations-5019.html>. It will also be made available in hard copy on request, using any of the contact methods below (see 'Further Information').

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 these documents (for example large print or Braille), please contact:

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