



Northern
Ireland
Office



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

***HIDDEN CRIMES, SECRET PAIN* - A CONSULTATION PAPER ON A
PROPOSED REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR ADDRESSING SEXUAL
VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Northern Ireland Office have now issued for consultation, the above document, "*Hidden Crimes, Secret Pain* – A consultation paper on a proposed regional strategy for addressing sexual violence in Northern Ireland. The document looks at the key issues surrounding sexual violence and its effect on victims, perpetrators, their families and society as a whole.

This document can be accessed on the DHSSPS and NIO websites at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk and www.nio.gov.uk by clicking on the respective e-consultation links. Copies of the document are available on request by contacting Sexual Violence Unit, Room C4.8, Castle Buildings, Stormont, Belfast BT4 3SQ or by telephoning 028 90520271 or text phone 028 90 527668.

Responses can be made in writing to Sexual Violence Unit at the address provided, by fax on 028 90 520529 or by email to sexualviolenceunit@dhsspsni.gov.uk

If you wish to comment on the document in response to the questions and proposals therein, please complete and return the response document enclosed with the consultation paper.

- When responding, please ensure your letter, fax, or e-mail includes the following:
- Your name, organisation (if relevant), address and telephone number
- Whether your comments represent your own view, the corporate view of your organisation, or the view of a group or team within your organisation
- Your specific comments on the questions and proposals
- Your comments in relation to the equality impact and human rights implications of the recommendations and
- Any general comments you wish to make.

Comments are invited on these proposals to reach the Department by the 27 April 2007.