



Northern
Ireland
Office

Programme of NIO Consultations, Screenings and Equality Impact Assessments

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NIO Programme of Consultations, Equality Screening & Equality Impact Assessments

i) Consultation Exercises since April 2009

Policy	Status as at September 2009	Last Updated	Is this a Limited* Consultation and, if so, has it been approved by Minister (please complete for any new/current Consultations)
CONSULTATIONS			
Forthcoming consultations			
Northern Ireland Prison Service Policy on Alcohol and substance misuse (NIPS)	Policy in drafting stage not yet consulted on.	31.08.09	No

Policy	Status as at September 2009	Last Updated	Is this a Limited* Consultation and, if so, has it been approved by Minister (please complete for any new/current Consultations)
NIPS Employability Strategy (NIPS)	Development of this strategy is currently halted pending recruitment of staff; this work will restart in the very near future.	31.08.09	No
To consult on the document re best practice for practitioners in the use of special measures and interviewing and supporting witnesses pre-trial. (CJPD)	The document is currently being developed and it is planned that consultation on it will begin early in the new year.	31.07.09	No

Policy	Status as at September 2009	Last Updated	Is this a Limited* Consultation and, if so, has it been approved by Minister (please complete for any new/current Consultations)
Special Measures to assist vulnerable and intimidated witnesses give their best evidence in court (CJPD)	An analysis will be made of the responses to the pre-policy consultation and recommendations as to the way forward will be consulted on in Autumn 2009.	31.07.09	No
Review of 50:50 recruitment provisions (PPSD)	12 week consultation to issue week beginning 14 September.	14.09.09	No
Current Consultations			
Consultation on aspects of electoral registration and other electoral law issues (REL)	Consultation paper published on 20 July 2009. Deadline for responses 12 October 2009.	09.09.09	No

Policy	Status as at September 2009	Last Updated	Is this a Limited* Consultation and, if so, has it been approved by Minister (please complete for any new/current Consultations)
NIPS Family Strategy (NIPS)	The draft NIPS Family Strategy was issued for consultation on 30 July. The consultation will run for 12 weeks. The Strategy aims to address the needs of families of offenders and sets out what they can expect when they engage with NIPS and how they can help support the rehabilitation of a prisoner. The Strategy has been developed in conjunction with partner agencies including NIACRO, Quaker Service, Barnardo's and DHSSPS.	01.09.09	No
Recommendations of the Consultative Group on the Past (REL)	Consultation launched on 24 June 2009.	10.08.09	No

Policy	Status as at September 2009	Last Updated	Is this a Limited* Consultation and, if so, has it been approved by Minister (please complete for any new/current Consultations)
Pyrotechnic Articles (Safety) Regulations (SPD)	Joint Consultation with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills launched on 6 August 2009.	25.08.09	Shorter consultation period agreed by the Minister.
Sports Law And Spectator Controls (CJPD)	Consultation issued July 2009 and closes 30 November 2009.	20.08.09	No
Government proposals in response to a review of Police & Criminal Evidence (PACE) in Northern Ireland (PPSD)	Consultation closed 2 April 2009. Responses are currently being considered and a summary of responses will be issued in due course.	11.09.09	No
Code of Practice for Victims and Witnesses of Crime (CJPD)	The consultation began on 3 August and closes on 30 October 2009.	20.08.09	No

Policy	Status as at September 2009	Last Updated	Is this a Limited* Consultation and, if so, has it been approved by Minister (please complete for any new/current Consultations)
Banning police membership of National Front, Combat 18 & British National Party (PPSD)	Comments received and currently being considered.	11.09.09	No
Consultation on revised set of PSNI (Unsatisfactory Performance and Attendance) Regulations 2009. (PPSD)	Limited Consultation due to end on 24 July 2009 - further extended to 25/8/09. Responses currently being considered.	11.09.09	Limited Consultation approved by Minister on 28.05.09.

Policy	Status as at September 2009	Last Updated	Is this a Limited* Consultation and, if so, has it been approved by Minister (please complete for any new/current Consultations)
Special Measures for Victims & Witnesses (CJPD)	Evaluation and review of Special Measures consultation commenced on 23 February. Consultation closed 5pm Monday 18 May 2009. Detailed responses are being analysed and a summary of responses is expected to be published alongside final policy proposals in autumn 2009.	31.07.09	No

Policy	Status as at September 2009	Last Updated	Is this a Limited* Consultation and, if so, has it been approved by Minister (please complete for any new/current Consultations)
<p>Young People and Licensed Firearms A review of the relevant provisions of the Firearms (NI) Order 2004. (SPD)</p>	<p>Consultation closed 29 December 2006. A summary of responses was placed on the NIO website. The Minister decided that he would consider whether the law might be amended to allow young people to take part in competition shooting. We are awaiting proposals from the shooting organisations.</p>	<p>18.08.09</p>	
<p>NIPS Flexible Working Policy and Procedures (NIPS)</p>	<p>Consultation on the screening of NIPS Flexible Working Policy and Procedures. Policy was consulted on, screened out and is now in operation.</p>	<p>31.08.09</p>	<p>No</p>

Policy	Status as at September 2009	Last Updated	Remarks
Recent Archive Consultations			
Improving the Administration of Elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly (REL)	Consultation closed. Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) (Amendment) Order 2009 in force.	09.09.09	
Issues relating to forthcoming European elections (REL)	Consultation closed. European Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2009 in force.	09.09.09	

Policy	Status as at September 2009	Last Updated	Remarks
Community Safety Strategy 2008 – 2013 (CSU)	A revised Community Safety Strategy. Consultation was launched in October 2008. The consultation closed on 19 February, and responses are currently being evaluated. Summary of responses and action plan published July 2009.	08.09.09	
NIPS Strategy – Management of Foreign National Prisoners (NIPS)	The FNP Strategy addresses the specific needs of Foreign National Prisoners. The Strategy underwent full consultation during April to July 2008. Significant elements of the Strategy are now in place and the remaining proposals will be implemented over time.	01.09.09	

Policy	Status as at September 2009	Last Updated	Remarks
Northern Ireland Prison Service Management of Mothers and Babies (NIPS)	Consultation closed in October 2006. The responses to the consultation are currently being considered in light of new work to address the strategic management of women offenders including policies in respect of the management of women in custody, the reduction of female offending and support for women offenders in the community.	31.08.09	

Policy	Status as at September 2009	Last Updated	Remarks
NIPS Child Protection Policy & Procedures (NIPS)	Suite of three policies published for consultation in April 2007. As a result the Policy has been revised and rewritten as one policy and this is currently being consulted on.	31.08.09	
Manufacture and Storage of Explosives (Amendment) Regulations (SPD)	Consultation closed on 16 January 2009 with no comments received which required amendment to the draft Regulations. Regulations were made on 23 June 2009 and came into operation on 7 August 2009. The summary of consultation responses has been published on the NIO Website.	12.08.09	

Policy	Status as at September 2009	Last Updated	Remarks
The Explosives (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) (SPD)	Regulations made on 25 November 2008 came into operation on 1 April 2009. The summary of responses has been published on the NIO Website.	12.08.09	
Proposed Draft Criminal Damage Compensation Amendment NI Order 2009 (CJSD)	Consultation closed 10 November 2008. Draft legislation laid in Parliament – December 2008 prior to Debate in February 2009. Legislation commenced April 2009.	24.04.09 06.08.09	
Draft Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2007 (CJPD)	Consultation closed 31 January 2008. Summary of responses issued 7 May 2008.	05.05.09	

Policy	Status as at September 2009	Last Updated	Remarks
Mentally Disordered Offenders Victim Information Scheme (CJPD)	Consultation closed 18 February 2008 and a summary of responses was issued in July 2008.	05.05.09	
Fine Default in NI (CJPD) Run in conjunction with the court service	Consultation issued 29 July 2008 and closed 31 October 2008.	05.05.09	
Proposals for Reform of the law on Murder , Manslaughter and Infanticide (CJPD)	Consultation issued on 28 July 2008 and closed on 20 October 2008. Summary of responses issued 15 January 2009.	05.05.09	

Policy	Status as at September 2009	Last Updated	Remarks
Test purchase of Alcohol (CJPD)	EQIA complete Consultation closed 18 July 2008. EQIA and Guideline Principles for test purchase summary of responses issued December 2008. SOS Guidance published 15 December 2008.	05.05.09	
Policy Discussion Paper on Alternatives to Prosecution (CJPD)	Consultation launched March 2008. Closing date for responses 30 May 2008. Detailed responses are being analysed and a summary of responses is expected to be published alongside final policy proposals in Summer 2009.	05.05.09	

Policy	Status as at September 2009	Last Updated	Remarks
Policy on supervision of juveniles under Juvenile Justice Centre Orders (CJSD)	Consultation closed. Rules currently being prepared for ministerial approval followed by publication. Summary of responses from stakeholders will be issued in line with timescale for publication.	29.04.09	
Changing definition of "likely to be permanent" when considering police medical appeals (PPSD)	Consultation ended 26 September 2008. Ministerial approval given 27 April 2009. Change communicated to stakeholders via a PPSD circular.	29.04.09	No

Policy	Status as at September 2009	Last Updated	Remarks
Progressive Regime and Earned Privileges Scheme (PREPS) Policy Review and Consultation (NIPS)	Consultation closed in June 2006. A summary of the responses are available on the NIPS web site. The new policy is finalised and is being implemented from July 2009.	24.04.09	
Promoting Equality/Valuing Diversity – Delivery Plan 2008-2010 (PSD)	Consulted with a wide range of internal stakeholders including Trade Union Side. Delivery Plan now in place.	24.04.09	
The Northern Ireland Policing Board (Transfer of Staff) (NI) Regulations 2008 PSNI LINKS Project (PPSD)	Regulations in place 1 October 2008.	24.04.09	

Policy	Status as at September 2009	Last Updated	Remarks
Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2009 (CJSD)	Consultation closed on 4 June 2008. Summary of responses published on the website. New NI Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2009 became operational on 1 April 2009.	23.04.09	

*** A limited Consultation is a consultation which only lasts for 8 weeks and not the normal 12 weeks and approval should be sought from the Minister for this.**

ii) **Screening Exercises 2009-10**

Policy	Status as at September 2009
Screening Exercises	
Promoting Equality/Valuing Diversity - Delivery Plan 2008-2010 (PSD)	Screened out December 2008. See recent archive consultations.
Proposals for Reform of the law on Murder, Manslaughter and Infanticide (CJPD)	Screened out. Screening published with consultation launched 28 July 2008. See recent archive consultations.
Test Purchase of Alcohol (CJPD)	Screening published with consultation in May 2008. Legislation amended to include written consent of both young person and a parent and SOS to issue guidance on test purchase operations. See recent archive consultations.
Fine Default in NI (CJPD)	Screened out Screening published with consultation on 29 July 2008
The Explosives (Amendment) Regulations (NI) (SPD)	Screened out July 2008. See recent archive consultations.
Proposed amendment to the Criminal Damage (Compensation)(Northern Ireland) Order 1977 to include a statutory compensation scheme for designated community halls (CJSD)	Screened out June 2008. See recent archive consultations – Legislation commenced April 2009
Training and development for staff (BIT)	Screened out – consulted with internal stakeholders and policy now in place. (April 2009)

Policy	Status as at September 2009
Change in definition of "likely to be permanent" relating to medical retirement, ill health or injury on duty awards of police officers or ex-officers. (PPSD)	Screening identified that the policy would impact on younger disabled officers, however mitigating measures are in place to reduce the impact. See archive consultations above.
NIPS Strategy for the Management of Women Offenders (NIPS)	This strategy will include policies for the management of women in custody, the reduction of female offending and support for women in the community. At Stage 1. The project team is currently scoping the work to be undertaken and a number of consultations with key stakeholders have recently taken place, screening not yet completed.
Strategy for the Development of the Adult Male Prison Estate (NIPS)	EQIA to be completed once the full business case for Magilligan and a review of the prisoner population is done.
Reduce Offending Strategy (CJSD)	No further progress on strategy from last update. (29.04.09)
Consultation on aspects of electoral registration and other electoral law issues (REL)	Screened out. No EQIA required. See current consultations above
Issues relating to forthcoming European elections (REL)	Screened out. No EQIA required. See archive consultations above
Improving the Administration of Elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly (REL)	Screened out. No EQIA required. See archive consultations above
Government proposals in response to a review of Police & Criminal Evidence (PACE) in Northern Ireland (PPSD)	Screened out December 2008. No EQIA required. See current consultations listed above.
Code of Practice for Victims and Witnesses of Crime (CJPD)	Screened out June 2009. No EQIA required. Associated consultation listed above.

iii) EQIA Timetable 2009-10

Policy	Status as at September 2009
EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS	
New site for FSNI Laboratory (FSNI).	EQIA ongoing. At Stage 2 – pending future arrangements for FSNI. Business case for laboratory is still being worked through and has not yet been finalised. Screening of new site is on-going.
Test Purchase of Alcohol (CJPD)	EQIA complete. Consultation closed. Summary of Responses and SOS Guidance published on website 15 December 2008. (27 April 2009)
Internal HR Policies	
NIO policy on postings, placements (PSD).	A summary of responses sent to Equality Commission
Policy on the pay of part-time staff (PSD).	A summary of responses has been drawn up. Awaiting agreement of Equal Pay Review with TUS 10.02.09

Updated September 2009

If require any assistance please contact the NIO Equality Unit on 02890 527062 or 02890 527016.