



Northern  
Ireland  
Office

# EQIA - Policy on the arrangements for the delivery of support services to victims of crime (core funding of Victim Support NI)

## SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO A CONSULTATION PAPER

August 2007



## **1. Introduction**

1.1 In line with the NIO Equality Scheme, the policy on the arrangements for the delivery of support services to victims of crime (core funding of Victim Support NI) was screened and it was determined that an EQIA should be carried out. In May this year, the Northern Ireland Office undertook a public consultation on the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) completed on this policy.

1.2 The Northern Ireland Office is responsible for the provision of support services to all victims of crime. This responsibility is mainly (although not exclusively) addressed through the provision of core funding to the voluntary organisation Victim Support NI (VSNI). VSNI is an independent charity which delivers services that work to help people come to terms with the experience of being a victim of crime.

1.3 The Community Safety Unit of the NIO contacted 74 bodies/organisations covering the main section 75 categories, as well as those with an interest in victims of crime, making them aware of the consultation document which was available on NIO and CSU websites.

1.4 The 12 week period of consultation followed informal consultation carried out by VSNI through customer satisfaction surveys, which identified victim's satisfaction of the services delivered by VSNI and also provided helpful section 75 information that was used in the completion of the EQIA.

1.5 The consultation period ended on 27 July 2007 and a total of 3 responses were received. A list of respondents is listed in Annex A. Comments detailed in the summary of responses have not been attributed to any organisation.

1.6 We are grateful for the responses received. This paper attempts to reflect the range of views offered, but does not describe all the responses in detail.

1.7 You can obtain copies of this report and the consultation document from [www.communitysafetyni.gov.uk](http://www.communitysafetyni.gov.uk) or [www.nio.gov.uk](http://www.nio.gov.uk) or from:

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BT2 7AQ  
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## **2. Summary of Responses**

2.1 The following issues were raised by respondents:

### **Overall Comment**

2.2 Respondents welcomed the opportunity to comment on the EQIA recognising the substantial funding provided by the NIO to VSNI.

### **Accessibility to Services**

2.3 Views were expressed on the importance of accessibility of services to all victims of crime in the different section 75 categories, with particular reference being made ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and those from different political backgrounds.

2.4 It was highlighted that victims have different needs that are to be addressed through service delivery.

### **Availability of Data**

2.5 The issue of limited data being available for the EQIA was raised and comments were made on how this restricted the effectiveness of the EQIA.

### **Funding**

2.6 The funding relationship of the NIO and VSNI was acknowledged and suggestions were made about diversification and payment of funding.

### **Monitoring of Section 75 Groups**

2.7 A suggestion was made on the establishment of a monitoring system by VSNI on capturing victim information on Section 75 Groups.

## **Consultation**

2.8 Comments on the consultation process were made. The benefits of focus groups were highlighted and also a targeted consultation, particularly for child victims of crime, was recommended.

**Those who responded to the consultation:**

British Irish Rights Watch

Disability Action

Sinn Fein