

Draft
Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy
2023-2030

Consultation Document

7 February 2023



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk



Department of
Justice

An Roinn Díf agus Cirt

Mánnystrie O tha Laa

www.justice-ni.gov.uk

Introduction

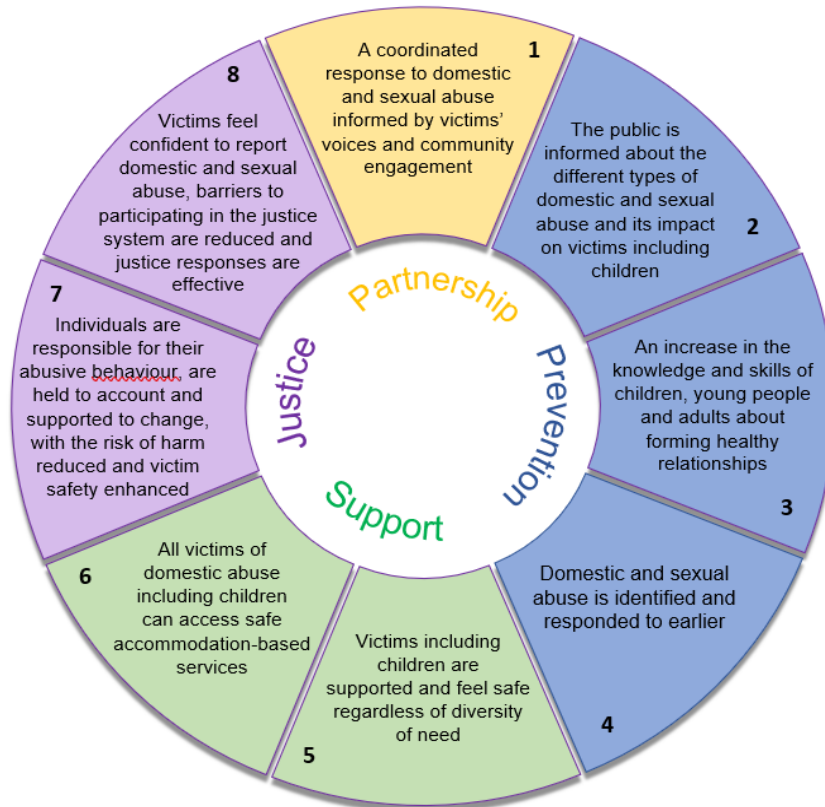
1. This consultation seeks views on a new draft Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy to cover the seven-year period from 2023 until 2030. It is being undertaken jointly by the Department of Health and the Department of Justice and will replace the current [Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy](#) which is now in its final year.
2. The strategy recognises that anyone can be a victim of domestic and sexual abuse regardless of age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion or any form of disability. However, we do acknowledge that the majority of victims are female and this also has informed our approach.
3. We are inviting you to share your views on its content and format to ensure we are taking the right approach to tackling domestic and sexual abuse. We would be particularly keen to hear from:
 - those with lived experience of domestic or sexual abuse;
 - those from different groups and communities including victims from LGBTQIA+ and minority ethnic communities and those with a disability;
 - organisations that provide support to victims including children;
 - frontline professionals, such as those working in health and social care, education, housing and the criminal justice system;
 - academics and researchers; and
 - the general public.

Overview of draft strategy

4. The vision of the draft strategy is that **domestic and sexual abuse is unacceptable within our homes and across all of society so that everyone can live without fear.**
5. Our overall strategic aim is to work together as partners, agencies and communities to make real, sustainable progress in tackling domestic and sexual abuse by addressing the root causes; ensuring those affected get the right support; and holding individuals who are abusive to account.
6. To achieve this aim, the strategy is designed around **four pillars**:
 - **Partnership:** driving change together through joint commitment, leadership and partnership working.
 - **Prevention:** preventing domestic and sexual abuse from happening by challenging the attitudes and behaviours that foster it and intervening early where possible to prevent it.
 - **Support:** ensuring that all victims of domestic and sexual abuse including children can access services supporting them to recover and rebuild their lives.

- **Justice:** holding individuals who are abusive to account and ensuring justice responses are effective.

7. The following eight outcomes have been identified across the four pillars:



8. Key priority areas of work to deliver these outcomes are set out within the draft strategy and will be expanded on in further detail in a series of action plans that will be developed annually. The first action plan will be published alongside the final strategy.

Strategy development process

9. We have sought to consult and engage as broadly as possible. This began in January 2022 when the Departments launched a ten week Call for Views with extensive input and direction from a wide range of stakeholders. A [Summary Report](#) of the feedback and responses received was published on 7 July 2022. This laid the foundations for the strategy development process as summarised below:



Impact assessments

10. An Equality Impact Assessment and Rural Needs Impact Assessment have also been completed, the outcome of which is available at **Annex A**.

Consultation period

11. The consultation will run from 7 February 2023 until 2 May 2023. Please note we will be unable to accept responses after this date.
12. The consultation exercise will also be supported by a number of online public engagement events which anyone can attend. The scheduled dates are:

Monday 6 March 2023	6.00pm – 7.30pm
Tuesday 7 March 2023	10.30am – noon
Thursday 9 March 2023	2.00pm – 3.30pm
Tuesday 14 March 2023	2.00pm – 3.30pm
Wednesday 15 March 2023	6.00pm – 7.30pm
Thursday 16 March 2023	2.00pm – 3.30pm

13. Further details are on the Departmental websites:
[DoH Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy consultation](#)
[DoJ Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy consultation](#)

How to Respond

14. You can respond online by accessing the Northern Ireland Government Citizen Space website using the link below:
<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/doj/domestic-and-sexual-abuse-strategy>
15. The full set of consultation questions are provided in **Annex B** to this consultation document.
16. Hard copies of this document and copies in other formats (including Braille, large print etc.), can be made available on request. If it would assist you to access the document in an alternative format, or language other than English, please let us know and we will do our best to assist you. We would still ask that you submit any responses online through Citizen Space.

Confidentiality and access to information

17. We may publish all responses to this consultation, except for those where the respondent indicates that they are an individual acting in a private capacity (e.g. a member of the public). All responses from organisations and individuals responding in a professional capacity will be published (removing email addresses and telephone numbers). For more information about what we do with personal data, please see our privacy notice (**Annex C**).
18. Your response, and all other responses to this consultation, may also be disclosed on request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR); however, all disclosures will be in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679.
19. If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential, so that this may be considered should there be a request for the information to be provided under FOIA or EIR.

Enquiries

20. Should you have any queries about this consultation, please contact us as below:

Phone: 028 9052 3713
E-mail: DSAStrategyConsultation@justice-ni.gov.uk
Write to: Room A4.03
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST
BT4 3SG

What happens next

21. Following the close of the consultation on **Tuesday 2 May 2023**, all responses and feedback will be analysed and used to inform the final strategy. A consultation report will be published alongside this.

Annex A: Impact Screening Outcomes

Full impact assessment documents are available as part of the full suite of consultation documents, and can be accessed via the following links:

[DoH Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy consultation](#)

[DoJ Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy consultation](#)

A summary of the outcome of each is provided in the table below:

Impact Assessment/Screening	Outcome
Equality/Human Rights	Equality Impact Assessment undertaken
Rural	Rural Impact Assessment undertaken

Annex B: Consultation Questions – Written Response Form

Your views are being sought on the new draft Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy.

As far as possible responses should be **made online through the NI Direct Citizen Space website** where the [consultation document and response form](#) can be found. This will assist for analysis purposes. Electronic or hard copy responses, using this template, should only be in exceptional circumstances.

Please submit your response online, **no later than Tuesday 2 May 2023**.

Alternatively, you can:

Phone: 028 9052 3713

E-mail: DSAStrategyConsultation@justice-ni.gov.uk

Write to: Victims Support Division
Department of Justice
Room A4.03
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST
BT4 3SG

A summary of the responses to the consultation exercise will be made available on the Departmental websites in due course. This will not contain any information that would identify individual respondents.

[DoH Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy consultation](#)

[DoJ Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy consultation](#)

SECTION 1: ABOUT YOU

Question (a):

I am responding as... (Please tick one option only)

A member of the public (Do not provide your name or email address)

On behalf of an organisation – Please specify below and include your organisation's email address.

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SECTION 2: RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON A DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL ABUSE STRATEGY

Question 1: Is the vision of the draft strategy reflective of what we want to achieve?

Agree / Disagree / Don't know
(delete as applicable)

Please add any comments you wish to make in the box below

Question 2: Does the definition of domestic abuse, as outlined in the draft strategy, reflect what you understand this to mean?

Agree / Disagree / Don't know
(delete as applicable)

Please add any comments you wish to make in the box below

Question 3: Does the definition of sexual abuse, as outlined in the draft strategy, reflect what you understand this to mean?

Agree / Disagree / Don't know
(delete as applicable)

Please add any comments you wish to make in the box below

Question 4: Do you agree with the use of the four pillars in the draft strategy (Partnership, Prevention, Support and Justice) as levers for change?

During the Call for Views we proposed a fifth pillar (or workstream) to take account of the needs of different groups of victims. Having taken on board the input and

views of a wide range of stakeholders, we have concluded that the needs of different groups should not be a stand-alone or separate agenda but rather it should be a fundamental part of all of the work that we do under each pillar: Partnership, Prevention, Support and Justice.

Agree / Disagree / Don't know

(delete as applicable)

Please add any comments you wish to make in the box below

Question 5: Do you agree with the outcome and key priority areas identified under Pillar 1 (Partnership) and how we will know we are making a difference?

<u>Outcome</u>	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
A coordinated response to domestic and sexual abuse informed by victims' voices and community engagement.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Key Priority areas: Working collaboratively across all government Departments and with statutory, voluntary and community and faith organisations to tackle domestic and sexual abuse.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Having effective governance structures underpinning the strategy's delivery with a performance framework to monitor outcomes and impact.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Informing policy, legislation and service development with better quality data, research and shared learning.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Having increased opportunities for victims' voices to be heard and ensuring the strategy's delivery is underpinned by intersectionality recognising that many people have multiple needs and face multiple barriers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How will we know we are making a difference?			
Listening to views of victims, including children.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensuring joined up working on cross cutting projects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Engaging regularly with key stakeholders at both a regional and local level.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Data from key stakeholders is shared, ensuring that as a system we understand and can respond to trends and emerging issues.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Review of action plans and performance indicators on a regular basis by all partners to ensure progress is made.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please add any comments you wish to make in the box below

Question 6: Do you agree with the outcomes and key priority areas identified under Pillar 2 (Prevention) and how we will know we are making a difference?

<u>Outcome:</u>	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
<p>The public is informed about the different types of domestic and sexual abuse and its impact on victims including children.</p> <p>Key Priority areas:</p> <p>Raising awareness, so that those experiencing, or at risk of experiencing domestic and sexual abuse, recognise it and know that help is available.</p> <p>Empowering people to safely challenge attitudes, beliefs and behaviours that foster domestic and sexual abuse.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Outcome:</u></p> <p>An increase in the knowledge and skills of children, young people and adults about forming healthy relationships.</p> <p>Key Priority area:</p> <p>Supporting the education sector to build capacity, knowledge and skills to promote understanding about consent and healthy relationships and to teach about sensitive subjects such as domestic and sexual abuse, in an age appropriate and inclusive way, across schools and other youth</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question 8: Do you agree with the outcomes and key priority areas identified under Pillar 4 (Justice) and how we will know we are making a difference?

ADDRESSING ABUSIVE BEHAVIOURS	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
<u>Outcome:</u>			
Individuals are responsible for their abusive behaviour, are held to account and supported to change, with the risk of harm reduced and victim safety enhanced.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Key Priority areas:			
Supporting individuals to address and manage their abusive behaviours and sustain positive change.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Encouraging individuals to change their abusive behaviour by removing barriers to participation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Working collaboratively to target the most prolific offenders, improving risk assessment and management.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing integrated safety and support structures for victims where programmes to address abusive behaviours are undertaken.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improving protections for those at risk of abuse.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How will we know we are making a difference?			
A reduction in repeat incidents of domestic and sexual abuse.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase in levels of convictions for domestic and sexual abuse offences.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Engagement in behavioural change programmes and associated reoffending levels.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase in protection orders granted and reduction in associated breaches.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JUSTICE SYSTEM			
<u>Outcome:</u>			
Victims feel confident to report domestic and sexual abuse, barriers to participating in the justice system are reduced and justice responses are effective.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If yes, please add any comments you wish to make in the box below

Question 10: Do you agree with the outcome of the Rural Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment?

Agree / Disagree / Don't know

(delete as applicable)

Please add any comments you wish to make in the box below

Annex C: PRIVACY NOTICE: Public Consultation on a new Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy

Data Controller: Department of Justice
Address: Victims Support Division, Department of Justice
Room A4.03, Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate, BELFAST,
BT4 3SG
Telephone: 028 9052 0534
Email: DSAStrategyConsultation@justice-ni.gov.uk
Data Protection Officer: Department of Justice Data Protection Officer
Telephone: 028 90378617
Email: DataProtectionOfficer@justice-ni.gov.uk

Data Controller: Department of Health
Address: Domestic and Sexual Violence Unit, Room D2.17, Castle
Buildings Stormont, BELFAST, BT4 3SL
Telephone: 028 9052 2512
Email: DSAStrategyConsultation@justice-ni.gov.uk
Data Protection Officer: Department of Health Data Protection Officer
Telephone: 028 9052 2353
Email: DPO@health-ni.gov.uk

Why are you processing my personal information?

Comments are being sought from interested parties as part of a Consultation on a new Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy. Personal data is not being sought as part of the Call for Views engagement but names, addresses and/or e-mail addresses may be provided as part of responses received. Consultation is a requisite part of the development of public policy and strategy.

Consent is not being relied on for processing the data supplied by consultees. Responses are being sought as part of the policy development process.

Lawful Basis for processing

The lawful basis relied upon by DoJ and DoH is Article 6(1)(e) UKGDPR, as we are carrying out this Consultation in the public interest and on the basis of our public task.

While we do not intend to process identifiable information or special category information, we have taken into consideration how some questions may inadvertently lead to identification of an individual and processing of special category personal data (if such data is inadvertently shared by respondents as part of their response). We consider the lawful basis for processing this data to be covered under Article 9(2)(g) UKGDPR and meeting the condition for processing contained at Schedule 1 Part 2 Paragraph 7 of the Data Protection Act 2018 (Administration of Justice).

The intention is to anonymise all responses once they are received and processed by the Department of Justice, prior to them being shared with the Department of Health.

What categories of personal data are you processing?

While personal data is not being sought as part of responses to the Consultation, those responding may include names, addresses and/or e-mail addresses. If a respondent provides any of these identifiers and any further information as part of their responses, this could lead to the processing of special category data, e.g. if the respondent discloses health data and their name has been provided at the outset. However, it is the intention that DoJ will ensure that responses are anonymised to prevent further processing of special category data inadvertently disclosed, and before responses are further processed or shared.

Where do you get my personal data from?

The personal data will originate from the person responding to the Consultation.

Do you share my personal data with anyone else?

The Department of Justice will be processing the responses when they are received and will provide anonymised responses to the Department of Health, so that these may be considered in the context of the strategy being taken forward.

Do you transfer my personal data to other countries?

No.

How long do you keep my personal data?

We will retain your data in line with 5.7 of Schedule 5 of the DoJ Retention and Disposal Schedule (<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/doj-retention-and-disposal-schedule>). No personal data will be processed or retained by DoH as part of this consultation.

(If you use automated decision making or profiling) How do you use my personal data to make decisions about me?

Automated processing for responses to this Call for views engagement will not be used.

What rights do I have?

You have the right:

- to obtain confirmation that your data is being processed, and access to your personal data. This privacy notice provides you with the relevant information about how your data will be processed. If you wish to make a request for access to your data, you should contact the Department of Justice using the contact details above.
- to have personal data rectified if it is inaccurate or incomplete. If you wish for your contact details to be rectified in any way you should contact the Department of Justice using the contact details above.
- to have personal data erased and to prevent processing, in specific circumstances. If you wish for your contact details to be erased you should contact the Department of Justice, using the contact details above.
- to 'block' or suppress processing of personal data, in specific circumstances. If you wish to block or suppress the processing of your personal data you should contact the Department of Justice, using the contact details above.
- to data portability, in specific circumstances. The only personal data processed should be your contact details as outlined above.

- to object to the processing, in specific circumstances
- in relation to automated decision making and profiling. As there will not be automated decision making and profiling as regards to the uses of your personal data for the purposes of this Consultation, this right does not apply.

How do I complain if I am not happy?

Complaints should be submitted to:
Freedom of Information Unit
Department of Justice
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST
BT4 3SG
Telephone: 02890 378617
Email: FOI@justice-ni.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with any aspect of this privacy notice, or how your personal information is being processed, please contact the *Departmental Data Protection Officer* at: DataProtectionOfficer@justice-ni.gov.uk

If, after contact with the Departmental Data Protection Officer, you are still not happy, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO):

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
Email: casework@ico.org.uk
<https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>