

NORTHERN IRELAND



Sexual Violence Unit
Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety
Child Care Policy Directorate
Room C 4.8
Castle Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3SQ

18 May 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

A proposed Regional Strategy for addressing sexual violence in Northern Ireland

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposals for the introduction of a Regional Strategy for addressing sexual violence in Northern Ireland.

From a NIPS perspective, work within our establishments with the perpetrators of sexual crime is ongoing. As recognised within your document, a number of programmes are available to those convicted of sexual offences and close links with other agencies are maintained through the MASRAM process. In addition, the Prisoner Release Victim Information Scheme which is administered at NIPS headquarters allows victims to receive specific information about offenders.

As you are aware, a new suite of NIPS Child Protection policies are currently out to consultation and when fully implemented will complement work already being undertaken in dealing with this difficult and sensitive area.

Unfortunately, like so many other organisations, the resources available for our programmes are finite. However, we will endeavour to maintain and build

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on current provisions and co-operate with DHSSPS, where possible, in any future strategies that flow from your current proposals.

Yours faithfully

Operational Policy and Co-ordination Branch