

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

The PPS's Consultation on the Draft Victim and Witness Expenses Policy issued on 14 December 2016 and closed on 17 March 2017. The aim of the consultation was to seek a wide range of views to inform the draft action plans.

Responses were received from:

Police Federation for Northern Ireland; and
Disability Action.

All comments raised were taken fully into consideration.

We have provided feedback to each consultee and a summary of the main points raised are set out below.

Police Federation for Northern Ireland		
	Comment	PPS Response
1.	The PFNI have noted the content of the document and have no adverse comment to make around the proposals at this time.	Noted.
Disability Action		
	Comment	PPS Response
1.	Regarding travel expenses being paid at public transport rates Disability Action would advise that for many people with disabilities public transport is inaccessible, in particular, in rural areas therefore would recommend that as a reasonable adjustment under the DDA 1995 that mileage and taxi fares must be offered. (Item 3.1, Page 6).	The PPS policy makes provision for such adjustments but we will review the draft to ensure this is clear.
2.	Regarding the PPS considering whether a designated adult should attend with a person with mental ill health or a learning disability, Disability Action would ask what	This would be an appropriate family member or carer who can provide suitable support. This individual would be agreed with the individual or

	training the designated person has to enable informed comment to be made. (Item 3.2.2, Page 7).	their family as appropriate. This does not exclude the support of a registered intermediary which can also be provided where necessary.
3.	Given Disability Action's comments above regarding public transport Disability Action would recommend that this system is monitored to ensure a consistency of approach that ensure equality of opportunity for all. (Item 3.2.3, Page 8).	As above.
4.	Disability Action would recommend that the witness invitations to attend court and accompanying expenses claim forms be made available in a range of accessible formats. (Section 10, Page 14).	The forms can only be provided in a paper format but large type face can be requested and additional forms can be supplied by e-mail if this is beneficial.

The PPS would like to thank all those who responded for their comments.

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