



# Information Schemes

**Victims have told us that timely and accurate information and communication are key to meeting their needs.**

There are three information schemes that can therefore provide information to registered victims.



An Agency within

**DoJ**

Department  
of Justice

[www.justice-ni.gov.uk](http://www.justice-ni.gov.uk)

NORTHERN IRELAND

PRISON  SERVICE

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## **PBNI Victim Information Scheme**

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**Probation's Victim Information Scheme provides information to registered victims about what it means when someone is sentenced to a Court Order which requires supervision by Probation.**

### **Who is Eligible for the Scheme?**

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The **PBNI Victim Information Scheme** is available to any person (or agreed representative) who has been the direct victim of a criminal offence for which the offender received a Probation Supervised Sentence.

### **How does the Scheme work?**

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**The PBNI Victim Information Scheme provides the following:**

- Information about specific sentence in your case and general information about PBNI's supervision of offenders.
- Opportunity to discuss your concerns, which may inform the supervision of the offender.
- You can choose to receive information in writing, by phone or in a face-to-face meeting with a Victim Liaison Officer (VLO)
- Information can be provided, if appropriate, about other organisations who may be able to offer specific support to you.
- Opportunity to be involved in direct or indirect restorative contact with the offender if this would help you address issues resulting from the offence.
- Inform and invite you, where applicable and with assistance, to complete a Victim Report for the Parole Commissioners.

# 2.

## **Prisoner Information Scheme (PRVIS)**

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**The Prisoner Information Scheme (PRVIS) is available to any person who has been the victim of a crime which has resulted in an offender being sentenced to a term of imprisonment.**

A victim may be eligible to participate in the scheme if:

- a. He/she is the victim of the offence for which the offender was imprisoned;
- b. He/she is not the victim but is the next of kin; is an immediate family member, or has a close relationship with someone who has died as a result of the crime;
- c. He/she is acting on behalf of a victim when that person is unable to act on their own behalf. This would include a close family member or legal guardian on behalf of a child; or for example, a carer acting on behalf of an ill or incapacitated person. If someone is acting on behalf of a victim they will be required to provide the written consent of the victim where that is possible and / or appropriate.

PRVIS applies only to Adult Prisoners sentenced to at least one sentence of six months or more; or permanently transferred to serve an equivalent sentence in Northern Ireland. Sentences of less than 6 months are not part of the scheme nor are cases where a prisoner received a number of sentences of less than 6 months. Only in circumstances where a particularly serious crime has been committed will young offenders convicted whilst aged under 18 be included in the scheme. Those circumstances are that the young offender must have been;

- Given the equivalent of a life sentence;
- Sentenced to six months or more by the Crown Court

However, information will only be provided when the young offender becomes 18.

### How does the scheme work?

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Those who register with PRVIS can be provided with information on a prisoner's **final discharge from prison or temporary release from prison**. A victim can receive information on the prisoner's discharge which includes:

- The **month** and **year** in which a prisoner is expected to be discharged;
- Any conditions of release to be imposed;
- Any breaches of those conditions which might result in the prisoner's return to custody;
- For cases referred to the Parole Commissioners for a decision on release you can be:
  - told the prisoner's case is being considered by the Commissioners;
  - given the opportunity to submit your views/concerns;
  - informed of the Commissioner's decision and if it is to release the prisoner of the licensing arrangements which apply to that offender.

A victim can also be told of temporary release the prisoner is granted during the course of the sentence.

**It should be noted that it may not always be possible to provide information in advance of a prisoner's temporary release. On occasions, urgent applications may be considered on compassionate grounds. Victims may occasionally have to be told of temporary release after it has occurred.**

# 3.

## **Mentally Disordered Victim Scheme**

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The scheme offers victims of mentally disordered offenders the opportunity to let their voice be heard when considering applications for leave of absence or for the discharge of mentally disordered offenders. A separate information sheet will be sent to those eligible to register for this part of the scheme.

In cases where the victim of an offender has received a Supervision and Treatment Order the victim / victim family may register to be kept informed of how the order is progressing. This order is supervised by the Mental Health Services. Information will be in liaison with a Victim Liaison Officer at the Victim Information Unit.

### **How Do I Apply for any of the Schemes?**

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You can apply to register with any of the schemes by completing the application form in this leaflet and returning it in the pre-paid envelope provided, by contacting the Victim Information Unit on 03001233269 or online at **[www.pbni.org.uk/what-we-do/victim-information-scheme/victim-information-scheme-online-registration-form/](http://www.pbni.org.uk/what-we-do/victim-information-scheme/victim-information-scheme-online-registration-form/)**.

Participation in the Victim Information Schemes is entirely voluntary. Victims can change their mind and opt out of a Scheme at any time by contacting the Victim Information Unit.

#### **How we use your information**

##### **- please see the attached VIU privacy notice**

All personal information that you provide us with will be held securely and confidentially and will be used in accordance with the requirements of data protection law.

## Useful Contact Numbers

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### NI Prisoner Release Victim Information Scheme

 03001 233269

 [www.niprivis.gov.uk](http://www.niprivis.gov.uk)

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### Probation Board for Northern Ireland Victims Unit

 03001 233269

 [www.pbni.org.uk/what-we-do/victim-information-scheme/](http://www.pbni.org.uk/what-we-do/victim-information-scheme/)

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### Victim Support Northern Ireland

 028 9024 4039

 [www.victimsupportni.co.uk](http://www.victimsupportni.co.uk)

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### Police Service of Northern Ireland

 101 - ask for local police

 [www.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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### Women's Aid Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline

 0808 8021 414

 [www.womensaidni.org](http://www.womensaidni.org)


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### NEXUS (survivors of sexual abuse)

 028 9032 6803

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### Men's Advisory Project

 028 9024 1929

 [www.mapni.co.uk](http://www.mapni.co.uk)

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### NSPCC

 028 9035 1135

 [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

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### Cruse Bereavement Care NI

 0844 477 9400

 [www.cruse.org.uk](http://www.cruse.org.uk)

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### The Witness Care Unit

 028 9026 4690

## Feedback

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We will seek your feedback to help us improve the service provided. If you are dissatisfied with the service you receive please tell the person you are dealing with or the manager of that person.

If you are still unhappy after your complaint has been dealt with you may be able to complain to an external independent body; ask our staff for further advice.

# APPLICATION FORM

**CASE REFERENCE / URN:**

**OFFENDER NAME:**

**Having read the leaflet, I would like to register with the Victim Information Unit to receive information about the prisoner / offender**

## MY DETAILS

Name:

DOB:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

**Relationship to victim:** (e.g. mother, support worker etc.)

**I give consent to be contacted**

☐

Signature:

Date:

**PRVIS** – I wish to receive the following information (please tick all that apply):

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**FINAL DISCHARGE**

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**TEMPORARY RELEASE DETAILS**

## MDO

**I would like to:**

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Complete representations

☐

Receive help to complete representations

☐

Receive absence of leave information

☐

Receive Outcome on Tribunal

☐

Receive Final Discharge Information

## PBNI VIS

- ☐ I would like to meet you
- ☐ I would like you to telephone me to discuss Issues
- ☐ I would like to receive written information
- ☐ I require special assistance

For example; disability, language, hearing impairment etc.  
Please Specify below:

### I consent to someone representing me

Name:

Organisation (if applicable) / relationship to victim:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

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protection law.**