



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk



Department of
Justice

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt

Mánnystrie O tha Laa

www.justice-ni.gov.uk

Domestic and Sexual Abuse Plan 2023 to 2030

What do you think?



**Easy
Read**

February 2023

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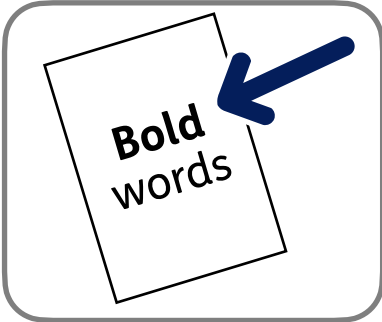
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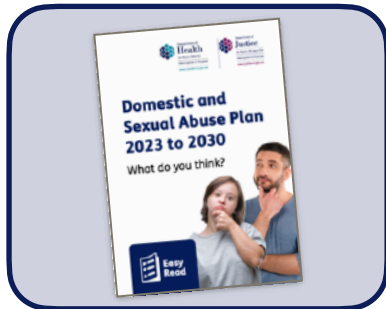


In this Easy Read document, hard words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after we have used them.



Some words are [blue and underlined](#). These are links that will go to another website which has more information.

About this survey



This Easy Read survey will ask you what you think about the plan to deal with domestic and sexual abuse in Northern Ireland.



The survey includes information about:

- The Department of Health and Department of Justice, who wrote the plan.



- What domestic and sexual abuse are, including some of the different types of abuse.



- What is in the plan to deal with domestic and sexual abuse.



- What will happen next.

Introduction



The **Department of Health and Department of Justice** are parts of the government in Northern Ireland.



The **Department of Health** works to make sure everyone has the care and support they need to be happy and healthy.



The **Department of Justice** works to keep everyone safe by making sure people take responsibility when they break the law.

What we are doing



Together we have written a plan to deal with domestic and sexual abuse.



To help us decide on the final plan,
we want to know what you think.



Please read the information and
answer the questions.



We need your answers by Tuesday, 2
May 2023.

Domestic and sexual abuse



Domestic abuse is when you are harmed by:

- Someone you have a close relationship with, like a partner or ex-partner.



- A family member.



Sexual abuse is when you are made to do sexual things you don't want to do.



Abuse is when someone hurts you or treats you badly.



Domestic and sexual abuse are crimes. They are against the law.



Domestic abuse

Domestic abuse can happen to anyone.



Domestic abuse happens in different ways, like when a partner or family member:

- Attacks you, or is violent towards you.



- Makes you do sexual things that you don't want to do.



- Controls how you behave or the choices you make.



- Stops you from being able to spend or earn money.



- Uses technology, like computers or the internet, to control you or make you feel scared.



Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse can happen to anyone.



Sexual abuse happens in different ways, like when a person:

- Says sexual things to you that you don't want to hear.



- Shows you sexual things that you don't want to see.



- Touches you in a sexual way, or makes you touch them, when you haven't agreed to it.

Getting help



If domestic or sexual abuse has happened to you or someone you know, there is help and support you can get.



You can contact the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline at any time free of charge by:

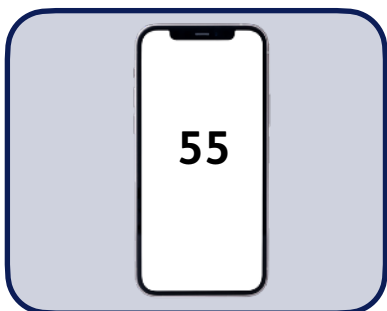
- Phone: 0808 802 1414
- Email: help@dsahelpline.org



For more information you can look at the website: www.dsahelpline.org



If you are in danger right now you should call 999.



If it is difficult for you to talk when you call 999, you can press 55 on your mobile phone to let the police know it is an emergency.

The plan to deal with domestic and sexual abuse



We want to stop domestic and sexual abuse from happening so that people can live without fear of being abused.



To help us understand what we need to do, we heard from:

- Victims of abuse.
- People who work with victims of abuse.



They helped us to come up with ideas to stop domestic abuse and sexual abuse.



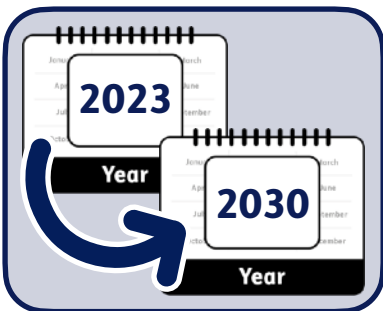
In early 2022, we asked people what they thought of our ideas.



We also looked into how our ideas will affect different people.



This was to make sure we deal with abuse in the best way for everyone.



All of this has helped us to write a plan to deal with domestic and sexual abuse over the next 7 years.



The plan is called the 'Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2023 to 2030'.

The plan sets out the 4 main areas of work to deal with domestic and sexual abuse:



1. **Partnership**

This is about everyone working together to deal with abuse.



2. **Prevention**

This is about stopping abuse from happening.



3. **Support**

This is about making sure victims of abuse can get the help they need, when they need it.



4. **Justice**

This is about the justice system being better at dealing with cases of domestic and sexual abuse.

What do you think?



We have said that we want to stop domestic and sexual abuse from happening so that people can live without fear of being abused.



Question 1: Do you agree with what we want to achieve?

Yes

No

I don't know



Do you have any comments about what we want to achieve?



We have said that domestic abuse is when you are harmed by:

- Someone you have a close relationship with, like a partner or ex-partner.
- A family member.



Question 2: Do you understand how we have explained domestic abuse?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know



Do you have any comments about how we have explained domestic abuse?



We have said that sexual abuse is when you are made to do sexual things you don't want to do.



Question 3: Do you understand how we have explained sexual abuse?

Yes

No

I don't know



Do you have any comments about how we have explained sexual abuse?

We have said that the plan sets out our 4 main areas of work:



1. **Partnership** - everyone working together to deal with abuse.



2. **Prevention** - stopping abuse from happening.



3. **Support** - making sure victims of abuse can get the help they need, when they need it.



4. **Justice** - We want the justice system to be better at dealing with cases of domestic and sexual abuse.



Question 4: Do you agree with these being the 4 main areas of work in our plan to deal with domestic and sexual abuse?

Yes

No

I don't know



Do you have any comments about the 4 main areas of work in our plan to deal with domestic and sexual abuse?



Partnership

We want everyone to work together to deal with abuse.



The way we work will be based on what victims tell us is right for them.



Question 5a: Do you agree that everyone should work together to deal with domestic and sexual abuse in a way that is right for victims?

Yes

No

I don't know

To make sure everyone is working together in a way that is right for victims, we plan to:



- Get all parts of the government, government organisations and local organisations working together to deal with abuse.



- Clearly say what work needs to be done to deal with abuse and who should be doing it.

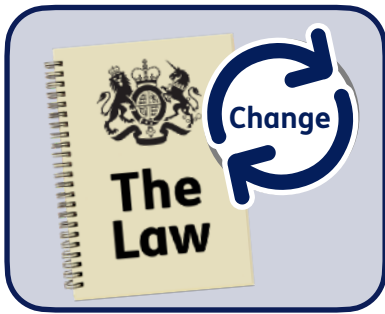


Question 5b: Do you agree with this?

Yes

No

I don't know



To make sure everyone is working together in a way that is right for victims, we may need to:

- Make changes to rules and laws based on what we learn as we work to deal with abuse.



Question 5c: Do you agree with this?

Yes

No

I don't know



To make sure everyone is working together in a way that is right for victims, we also plan to:

- Give more victims the chance to speak up about how to deal with abuse, and
- Hear from as many people as we can, including victims.



Question 5d: Do you agree with this?

Yes

No

I don't know



Do you have any comments about our plans for everyone working together to deal with domestic and sexual abuse?



Prevention

We want to stop domestic and sexual abuse from happening.



We want people to understand about different types of domestic and sexual abuse and how it affects victims.

To make sure people understand about different types of abuse, we plan to:



- Help more people to know if they are a victim of abuse and how they can get support.



Question 6a: Do you agree with this?

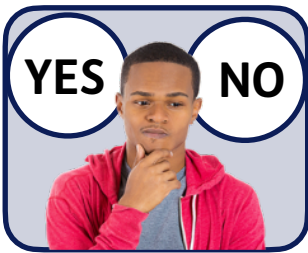
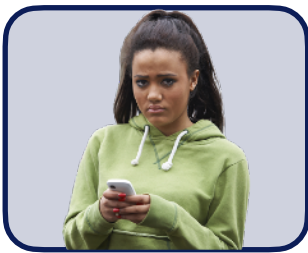
Yes

No

I don't know



We want people to learn the right knowledge and skills to have healthy relationships, from a young age. We plan to:



- Support schools, colleges and universities to make children, young people and adults more aware of:

- Domestic and sexual abuse.

- Consent - this means you agree to do something, like when you say yes to having sex with someone.

- Healthy relationships.



Question 6b: Do you agree with this?

Yes

No

I don't know



We want to find out earlier when someone is the victim of domestic or sexual abuse, and make it stop.

To make sure we can find out earlier if someone is being abused, we plan to:



- Help more people who work with the public to recognise when someone might be a victim of abuse, and what to do about it.



Question 6c: Do you agree with this?

Yes

No

I don't know

To make sure we can find out earlier if someone is being abused, we also plan to:



- Help companies to make sure their workplaces are safe and have rules for staff about domestic and sexual abuse.



Question 6d: Do you agree with this?

Yes

No

I don't know



Do you have any comments about our plans for stopping abuse from happening?

Support



We want victims of domestic and sexual abuse to be able to get the support they need, when they need it.



We want all victims, including children, to get support and feel safe.



To make sure all victims can get support, we plan to:

- Protect victims and their families and make them feel safe from any more abuse.



Question 7a: Do you agree with this?

Yes

No

I don't know

To make sure all victims can get support, we also plan to:



- Help services to understand that some people have different needs, so that they can get support in a way that is right for them.



Question 7b: Do you agree with this?

Yes

No

I don't know



We want all victims of domestic abuse, including children, to be able to move and stay in a safe place to get support.

To make sure all victims are able to get support in a safe place, we plan to:



- Give victims and their children a safe place to live that is right for them and suits their needs.



Question 7c: Do you agree with this?

Yes

No

I don't know



To make sure all victims are able to get support in a safe place, we also plan to:

- Support victims to stay in their own home if they want to and it is safe.



Question 7d: Do you agree with this?

Yes

No

I don't know



Justice

We want to deal with the issues that lead some people to abuse others, to change the way they behave.



We want the people who abuse others to want to change and take responsibility for what they have done.

To try to change how a person behaves, we plan to support them to:



- Cope better and deal with how they behave.
- Take part in the world around them, so they can learn to behave in the right way.



Question 8a: Do you agree with this?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know



We want to reduce the chance of abusers being able to do anything more to their victims.



To make sure victims are safe from the person abusing them, we plan to:

- Work together to find and stop the people who:
 - Have abused others in the past and are likely to do it again.
 - Are most likely to start carrying out abuse on others.



Question 8b: Do you agree with this?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

To make sure victims are safe from the person abusing them, we also plan to:



- Improve the way victims are protected from any more harm from the person who abused them.



Question 8c: Do you agree with this?

Yes

No

I don't know



We want all victims to be able to **report** domestic and sexual abuse, and know how to do it.



Report means telling someone like the police that something has happened.



We want to understand why many victims do not report domestic and sexual abuse, so we can help them to do it.



Question 8d: Do you agree with this?

Yes

No

I don't know

To make sure all victims feel confident to report their abuse, we also plan to:



- Give victims the support and information they need when they are dealing with the police and courts.



Question 8e: Do you agree with this?

Yes

No

I don't know



We want the justice system to be better at dealing with cases of domestic and sexual abuse.



To make sure this happens, we plan to:

- Improve the way domestic and sexual abuse cases are dealt with in court.



Question 8f: Do you agree with this?

Yes

No

I don't know

To make sure cases of domestic and sexual abuse are dealt with better, we also plan to:



- Make how the police and justice system respond to cases stronger.

Question 8g: Do you agree with this?



Yes

No

I don't know



Do you have any comments about our plans to improve how the justice system deals with cases of domestic and sexual abuse?

The overall plan



Question 9: Do you have any comments about the overall plan to deal with domestic and sexual abuse?



If you have any comments, please tell us which part of the plan you are talking about.



We have said that when we were thinking about this plan, we looked into how our ideas will affect different people.



This was because we want to make sure we deal with abuse in the best way for everyone.



Question 10: Do you agree that our plan will deal with domestic and sexual abuse in the best way for everyone?

Yes

No

I don't know

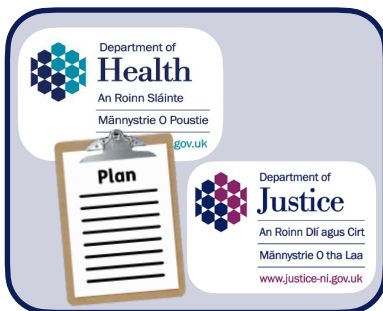


Do you have any comments about whether our plan will be good for everyone?

Thank you

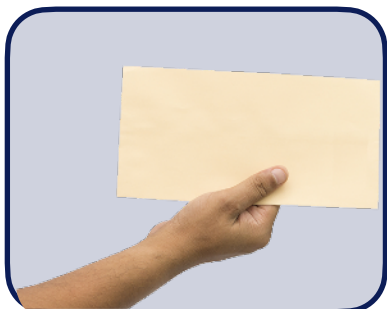


Thank you for taking part in this survey.



Your answers will help the Department of Health and Department of Justice to decide on the final plan.

Please now send your answers back to us at:



Victims Support Division
Department of Justice
Room A4.03
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SG



We need your answers back by Tuesday, 2 May 2023.

What happens next



When we have decided on the final plan, we need to make sure it works to deal with domestic and sexual abuse.



To make sure the final plan works, we will:

- Set up a group to manage the plan called the 'Strategic Delivery Board'.



The Board will include people from different government departments, organisations, the police and services who support victims of abuse.



The Board will meet every 3 months and tell the government about how the plan is going.



We will also:

- Write a plan each year for what needs to be done that year.



- Collect information as we go through the plan to check it is working and what needs to improve.



- Make sure the money we have available is spent on the right things.



- Ask people to tell us what they think about how the plan is going, as we are working through it.

For more information



You can look at our websites here:

- www.justice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/domestic-and-sexual-abuse-strategy-2023-2030-0
- www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/domestic-and-sexual-abuse-strategy-2023-2030

If you need more information please contact us by:



- Post:
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