

Probation Board for Northern Ireland Victim Information Scheme

What is the Probation Victim Information Scheme?

The PBNI Victim Information Scheme (VIS) (CJ Order (NI) 2005) became operational in 2005.

The PBNI Victim Information Scheme provides victims with the choice of having information about the Probation Supervised court sentence imposed in their case. The Scheme aims to empower victims of crime and contribute to public protection by providing relevant information about Probation supervised sentences in a manner which is accessible, understandable, respectful and supportive. PBNI's Victim Information Scheme also works with other Criminal Justice agencies and Victim organisations to provide an integrated service to victims.

Further details may be found in the VIS leaflet, via the website at www.pbni.org.uk

Information will be provided to victims:-

- Information about the specific sentence in their case and general information about PBNI's supervision of offenders.
- The opportunity to discuss concerns which may inform the management of the offender.
- Information can be provided in writing, by phone or in a face-to-face meeting with a PBNI Victim Liaison Officer.
- Information can be provided, if appropriate, about any organisation which may be able to offer specific support in relation to the victim's experiences / needs as a victim of crime.
- The opportunity to be involved, on a voluntary basis, in direct or indirect restorative contact with the offender if this would help address issues resulting from the offence.

Prisoner Release Victim Information Scheme

What is the Prisoner Release Victim Information Scheme?

It is a scheme which provides for victims of crime or where the victim is deceased, the family of the victim, to register to receive information about a prisoner's sentence, about any periods of temporary release from prison for which a prisoner is being considered and about their release from prison at the end of their period in custody. The scheme also provides for the written submission to the Prison Service of any concerns victim's/victim's family's have about a prisoner's release.

Further details can be found in the information and temporary release booklets relating to the scheme via internet link www.nidirect.gov.uk/prisoner-release-victim-information-scheme or by telephoning 0300 123 3269

The scheme only provides for information to be given about the month and year in which a prisoner is to be released whether temporarily or at the end of their time in custody.

Account is taken of any written submissions received in determining where a prisoner may be permitted to go on release. For those granted temporary release or subject to a licence on final release conditions may be imposed stipulating that a prisoner is to have no contact with the victim/victim's family. Any breach of such a condition may result in a prisoner being returned to custody.

Information about any programmes in which a prisoner may be involved is cannot be provided under the terms of the scheme. Enquiries on this issue should be directed to the Governor of the prison in which the prisoner is located.

Mentally Disordered Offenders Victim Information Scheme

What is the Mentally Disordered Victim Information Scheme?

It is a scheme which provides for victims of mentally disordered offenders or where the victim is deceased, the family of the victim, to register to receive information about an offender who is the subject of a hospital order with a restriction order or is given a transfer direction and a restriction direction whilst he/she is serving a sentence of imprisonment.

Information can be provided about any periods of leave of absence from hospital for which an offender is being considered and about their conditional or absolute discharge from hospital. The scheme also provides for the written submission to the Department of justice of any concerns victim's/victim's family's have about an offender's release from hospital at such times.

Further details can be obtained by telephoning 0300 123 3269

Registered persons will be told that a period of leave of absence has been granted or that an offender is to be discharged from hospital within the next few weeks along with any general conditions which are of relevance to the victim/victim's family. Account is taken of any written submissions received in determining to what conditions an offender should be subject on release.