

Superintendents Association of Northern Ireland (SANI)

Good Afternoon

Thank you for your letter and for providing the opportunity for the Superintendents Association of Northern Ireland (SANI) to comment on the content of the draft Domestic Abuse and Family Proceedings Bill.

SANI see the Bill as a huge step forward in supporting victims of domestic abuse. We know that domestic abuse remains prevalent in society and that it comes in many cruel and harmful forms. The draft Bill recognises this and seeks to fill acknowledged gaps within the current legislative provisions.

SANI are aware that PSNI have been involved in the working group which has sought to shape and advise on the draft legislation, demonstrating an important collaborative approach to development of the Bill that SANI are fully supportive of. SANI are pleased to indicate that we see no substantive issues within the Bill as drafted.

The development of operational guidance is an essential supplement to new legislation. SANI are keen to understand the anticipated timelines for the development of the operational guidelines that will be essential in outlining the working practices which flow from the Domestic Abuse and Family Proceedings Bill. This guidance should be developed in collaboration with the relevant justice partners to ensure that the intent of the legislation is translated into practical guidance for those agencies responsible for working with it. SANI would urge that the development of guidance is given the highest priority.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment and SANI wish the Committee well for their deliberations on this important work.

Kind Regards

Ewan Anderson  
Detective Superintendent  
Acting President