

Victim Support NI

I've been asked to send this through to you on behalf of Victim Support NI.

Unfortunately Victim Support NI was not able to gather any solid narrative evidence from victims of stalking in Northern Ireland for the review.

We use social media and contacts through our services to invite victims of stalking to come forward or to find a member of staff who would be willing to speak to the issue. At present there are no suitable clients going through the services and we have not been able to find a former client who would be willing to come forward.

While we are unable at this point in time to provide you with some narrative evidence Victim Support NI is clear that it is perhaps not surprising given the effect stalking has on individual mental health and wellbeing and the level of shame stalking victims can experience.

We welcome the work being done to agree a definition of stalking and believe this important in assisting victims of stalking to share their experience with others and remove the shame. We are aware how challenging it is to agree a definition given the various definitions that exist but encourage everyone to reach an early conclusion on this matter given the significant matter it is for those who live with the impacts of stalking and harassment.

With thanks

Donna Bell

Communications Officer, Victim Support NI