

Department of Justice
Legacy Branch
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Dear Consultee,

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION – PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE OFFICE OF
THE POLICE OMBUDSMAN FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the commencement of a 13 weeks public consultation process on proposed changes to the administrative and legislative framework and governance arrangements for the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (OPONI).

These proposals are set out in two separate documents covering proposed changes to the structure, role and powers of the office.

The first is a discussion paper on OPONI produced by the Department of Justice in response to the recommendations in the Tony McCusker Report published in June 2011. This paper includes a number of questions which you may wish to consider as part of your response.

The second is the Police Ombudsman's Five-Year Review Report on the working of Part VII of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 which the Ombudsman is statutorily obliged to review every five years. This report contains 26 recommendations which you are asked to consider and provide your views on whether or not you would be in favour of their acceptance together with the basis for these views.

A copy of the consultation documentation is attached for your information. Copies are also available as follows:-

DOJ website: www.dojni.gov.uk.

By telephone: (028) 9052 8282

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By E-mail: PublicConsultation.PONI@dojni.x.gsi.gov.uk

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The closing date for receipt of response to the consultation is Friday 08 June 2012.

Over the coming weeks my officials will be making contact with organisations to arrange information seminars aimed at exploring these proposals for change in more detail and working through any concerns and issues you may have.

I am sure these discussions will prove to be a valuable element of the consultation process and would encourage you to participate.

David Ford

Minister of Justice