

PREFACE BY CHAIR OF COMMISSION FOR THE SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF CRIME

The Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime funds organisations that provide a number of services to victims of crime. These organisations support victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence, human trafficking, as well as tourist victims of crime, child victims, families of victims who are killed and victims of general crime.



The services of these organisations include:

- accompanying the victim to court;
- giving information;
- giving access to helplines; and
- offering emotional support and counselling.

As well as the dedicated help of voluntary organisations, victims of crime need a range of facilities and support from state agencies in the criminal justice area. Many of the actions these state agencies are taking are set out in this Charter. A big concern for victims is being kept informed about the progress of crime investigations, prosecution procedures, court processes, and decisions and issues about prison and probation.

The Commission has revised the Victims Charter at the request of the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform. This revision is the start of a process to improve crime victims' satisfaction with the criminal justice system. The Commission hopes that this Charter will be of help to you, the victim of crime, and all those who come into contact with the criminal justice system.

Ray McAndrew

Chair of Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime