

**A joint response by the NSPCC and ISPC to the Department of Justice  
Northern Ireland consultation on:**

**Arrangements for notification of sex offenders from jurisdictions outside of  
the UK**

**April 2010**

1. The NSPCC and ISPCC are the lead children's voluntary child protection agencies on both sides of the border providing a range of services, training, advocacy services and policy development relating to the protection of children. In Northern Ireland NSPCC has statutory powers under the Children (NI) Order 1995 and is a constituent member of Public Protection Arrangements (NI) (PPANI) established under the Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2008 and we provide services to young people involved in sexually harmful behaviours as well as working with a range of adults whose behaviour may pose a risk.
2. We are grateful for the opportunity to respond to this consultation by the Department of Justice Northern Ireland on the arrangements for notification of sex offenders from outside of the jurisdiction of the UK. Both organisations have consistently championed and campaigned for improved cross border arrangements relating to child protection and sex offender assessment and risk management. In particular and where possible for common standards and approaches.
3. Northern Ireland is the only part of the UK with a land border with another EU state. This raises particular problems over movement and management of those who would pose a risk and both organisations have publicly called for constituency of sex offender management arrangements, a view supported by many agencies who attended the cross border conferences and seminars we organised in 2002 and 2006.
4. NSPCC and ISPCC are pleased to note the options as set out in the paper and overwhelmingly support **option b** to create an automatic notification requirement in NI for offenders from all other jurisdictions. Simultaneous practice changes to advice given to offenders on both sides of the border on conviction seem very sensible. This will ensure a largely similar approach to offenders moving on a north south basis or entering the Island of Ireland.

5. NSPCC also feels that the issue is so important that we will support a call for similar legislation to be developed in GB based on changes to the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

**Colin Reid Policy and Public Affairs Manager NSPCC**

**Contact details:**

**Colin Reid Policy and Public Affairs Manager NSPCC Northern Ireland**

**[creid@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:creid@nspcc.org.uk) NSPCC Jennymount Industrial Estate North Derby Street Belfast BT153HN**

**Mary Nicholson ISPCCC National Advocacy Manager ISPCCC**

**Contact details: [mnicholson@ispcc.ie](mailto:mnicholson@ispcc.ie) ISPCCC 29 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2, 00353 1 6767960**