



Department of

**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

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18 May 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

**GOOD PRACTICE GUIDANCE FOR AGENCIES WHO MAY COME INTO  
CONTACT WITH VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE**

In October 2005 the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety published "Tackling Violence At Home: A Strategy For Addressing Domestic Violence And Abuse In Northern Ireland". This 5 year strategy is supported by annual action plans which translate the strategy's principles and aims into practice by setting out the key actions to achieve progress across a range of services.

The first Action Plan issued under the Strategy indicated that a set of Regional Good Practice Guidelines would be developed to encourage, as far as possible, a consistency of approach by all agencies across Northern Ireland who may come into contact with victims of domestic violence and abuse; to further raise awareness of domestic violence and abuse among the many different agencies; to encourage good practice and consistency across Northern Ireland in dealing with domestic violence; and to improve the quality and equity of the services provided to victims of domestic violence.

I attach a draft of this guidance which has been produced on behalf of the Regional Steering Group on Domestic Violence, and would welcome any comments or concerns you might have with the content or thrust of the document.

Could you please forward any comments to Paul Cassidy at the address above by 18 June 2007.

Yours faithfully

**for Chair of the Information Sub-Group  
of the Regional Steering Group on Domestic Violence**