# **Reviewing the CPS policy statement on how we charge and prosecute rape cases**

**Context**

Updating this policy statement is one of the commitments we've made as part of our RASSO 2025 strategy. Our previous statement was last updated in 2012.

This policy statement sets out how we approach our responsibilities in rape and serious sexual assault cases. It provides detailed information about our how we work and provides relevant links to further information in our legal guidance.

We expect that this statement will be of most interest to those who work within the criminal justice system – for example support services who work with victims of rape and serious sexual assault, but it may also be of interest to victims, supporters and the wider public.

**Questions**

Please use the questions below to frame your review and provide us with feedback.

Where you’ve identified something we need to improve please use specific examples. These help to make it clear what the problem is so we can make the changes we need to.

**Demographic information**

At the end of the questionnaire is an optional section on demographic information – including questions about your age, ethnicity, disability and gender identity as well as the level of experience you have with the criminal justice system.

This section is entirely optional and you don’t have to fill it in if you don’t want to. Any information you provide will help us to understand whether our commitment is meeting the needs of people with different experiences and backgrounds.

We’ll keep any information that you provide in this section confidential and we’ll only use your answers in an anonymised way. You can find out more about how we protect your data in our privacy notice: [cps.gov.uk/privacy-notice-crown-prosecution-service-cps](https://www.cps.gov.uk/privacy-notice-crown-prosecution-service-cps)

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| 1. **We hope that having read the above information you are willing to provide feedback to us and help us provide the best information we can.**   To process your data, we need your consent. Please select your choice below. Select agree if:   * 1. You have read the above information   2. You voluntarily agree to participate   3. You understand that your data will not be attributed to you personally, and will be stored securely |
| □ I agree to take part  □ I do not wish to take part |

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| 1. **Which version of the policy statement are you reviewing?** |
| □ Online version  □ English PDF  □ Welsh PDF |

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| 1. **Are you providing your response as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?** |
| □ Individual  □ Organisation (please specify) |

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| 1. **Structure**   We’ve broken the policy statement down into different sections following the progress of a case through the criminal justice system. |
| **Do you think this is the right structure to help our audiences understand how we approach our responsibilities in rape and serious sexual assault cases?**  **Is there anything you particularly like?**  **Is there anything you think we could improve?** |

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| 1. **Language**   The text is legally and factually accurate but we’ve also tried to strike a balance between using the official language of the justice system and explaining things in language that is clear and easy to understand. |
| **How well do you think we’ve done this on a scale of 1 (very poor) to 5 (excellent)**  **1 2 3 4 5**  **Is there anything you particularly like?**  **Is there anything you think we could improve?** |

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| 1. **Content**   This policy statement is designed to set out how we approach our responsibilities in rape and serious sexual assault cases. It provides detailed information about our policies, practices and legal guidance. |
| **How well do you think it does this on a scale of 1 (very poor) to 5 (excellent).**  **1 2 3 4 5**  **Was there anything that surprised you or that you didn’t already know in the content?**  **Is there anything missing? For example, have we provided links to the most relevant legislation, policies, practices and guidance?** |

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| 1. **Accessibility and other formats**   We’ve produced an online version of the policy statement as well as a downloadable PDF in English and Welsh. Following the consultation, we plan to provide the final policy statement in the following languages:  Arabic, Bengali, Chinese (traditional), French, Gujarati, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Spanish, Urdu and BSL. |
| **Are there any other languages or formats you think we should consider and why? Please be specific about the audiences you think would use these formats.** |

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| 1. **Any other comments** |
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| 1. **We might have follow-up questions based on your feedback. If you’re happy for us to contact you about these please leave your name, organisation (if applicable) and your contact details below.** |
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| **Demographic information** |
| **1.** **What experience do you have of the criminal justice system? (tick all that apply)** □ I’ve been a victim of rape or serious sexual assault. (I reported it to the police)  □ I’ve been a victim of rape or serious sexual assault. (I didn’t report it to the police)  □ I’ve supported a family member or friend who has been a victim of rape or serious sexual assault  (that was reported to the police).  □ I’ve supported a family member or friend who has been a victim of rape or serious sexual assault  (that was not reported to the police).  □ I am or have been a criminal lawyer  □ I work or have worked for another criminal justice agency  □ I have worked or volunteered for a support agency  □ I’ve been involved in another way (please describe)  □ I have no experience of the criminal justice system  □ Prefer not to say **2.** **What is your age range?** □ 24 and under  □ 25 – 34  □ 35 – 44  □ 45 – 54  □ 55-64  □ 65+  □ Prefer not to say **3. What is your sex?** □ Male  □ Female  **4. Is your gender the same as the sex you were registered at birth?**  □ Yes  □ No (Please specify) **5. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?** □ Straight/Heterosexual  □ Gay or Lesbian  □ Bisexual  □ Other sexual orientation (please describe) **6. What is your ethnic group?** Choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background  White  □ English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British  □ Irish  □ Gypsy or Irish Traveller  □ Roma  □ Any other White background, please describe   * Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups   □ White and Black Caribbean  □ White and Black African  □ White and Asian  □ Any other Mixed/Multiple ethnic background, please describe   * Asian/Asian British   □ Indian  □ Pakistani  □ Bangladeshi  □ Chinese  □ Any other Asian background, please describe   * Black/ African/Caribbean/Black British   □ African  □ Caribbean  □ Any other Black/African/Caribbean background, please describe   * Other ethnic group   □ Arab  □ Any other ethnic group, please describe  □ Prefer not to say **6.** **Do you consider yourself to be disabled?** □ Yes  □ No  □ Prefer not to say |