

VICTIMS COMMENTS ON DISCRETION

The following are comments made by the victims of crime where Discretion has been applied:

“No courts involved, we didn't want a child at such a young age to have a record.”

H. Henderson - Victim of Assault

“Better than going through the courts. He had to pay for it out of his own pocket money and he knows what will happen if he does it again.”

J. Neill - Victim of Criminal Damage

“Good in the respect I had a choice. I had an input into the punishment.”

D. McReynolds - Victim of retail theft

INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

The Police Service of Northern Ireland is committed to addressing any issues or concerns. We encourage anyone with information regarding crime to contact their local neighbourhood police officers or their local police station so that the matter can be fully investigated.

Emergency Tel: 999
Non Emergency Tel: 0845 600 8000
Website: www.psni.police.uk
Email: info@psni.police.uk

Alternatively information on crime can be reported to the Crimestoppers Charity anonymously on freephone **0800 555 111**.



For free crime prevention advice, contact your local crime prevention officer.

VICTIM SUPPORT NORTHERN IRELAND

The Police Service of Northern Ireland recommends the services of Victim Support Northern Ireland (VSNI). This is an independent charity who provide information and practical support to help you cope with crime. The police service will pass your details to VSNI, unless you ask them not to.

You can get in contact with VSNI if you need help or advice.

Victim Support Northern Ireland

Website: www.victimsupportni.co.uk

Tel: 028 9024 4039 *or* 0845 3030900

Email: info@victimsupportni.org.uk



DISCRETION

Speedy Justice

Streamlining Justice Delivery to ensure effective, inclusive, timely and appropriate outcomes.



Putting victims of crime and Antisocial Behaviour at the forefront of the Justice system.

Making offenders admit to and recognise the impact of their actions.

Agreed practical outcomes delivered in a timely manner.

Officer managed process from complaint to resolution.

WHAT IS DISCRETION?

Discretion is an alternative way of dealing with low level crime, for example minor shoplifting, minor assaults, graffiti and broken windows. It allows the victim to be at the heart of the decision making process.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Where a minor offence is reported to police and a suspect has been identified, and the suspect meets certain conditions i.e. admits the offence and is not a persistent offender, then the matter may be suitable to be dealt with by discretion.
- The officer will then offer the victim the chance to have the matter dealt with by discretion or alternatively the case will be sent to the Public Prosecutions Service who will decide whether or not the case goes to court.
- If the victim decides the matter should be dealt with by discretion, then they will agree a suitable outcome which could include for example, an apology, repairing a broken window or paying for the item stolen.
- The officer will offer the option of discretion to the suspect and if they agree and comply with the agreed outcome then the matter can be dealt with under this scheme.

- Discretion is not a criminal conviction (so the suspect will not be given a criminal record), however details will be held on police records, which will be consulted by officers in the event of a further offence.
- It challenges offenders to recognise the impact of their behaviour.
- Delivers a speedy, effective outcome tailored to the needs of the victim.
- Where Discretion has been used has resulted in high victim satisfaction rates.

BEFORE DISCRETION CAN BE USED ...

- The victim must be fully consulted to allow them to make an informed decision.
- The victim must consent before discretion can be considered.
- The victim's views will be sought on the appropriateness of the outcome.
- The victim has an input into how this should be dealt with.
- The suspect must admit the offence and agree to the suggested outcome.

Discretion allows greater access to Justice and will support our desire to promote confidence in policing and the Criminal Justice System.