

Everywoman Safe Everywhere: Labour's Consultation on Women's Personal Safety and Security

1. Terms of Reference

1.1 Recent legislation

1.2 The scale of spending cuts

1.3 Changes to tax and benefits

1.4 Public Sector Reform

1.5 Offence of Stalking

1.6 Clare's Law

1.7 Right of appeal against bail

1.8 Definition of domestic violence

1.9 Other areas

2. Structure of the Consultation

3. Timeframe of the Consultation

1. Terms of Reference

The consultation's overarching objective is to improve women's personal safety.

It will take evidence on the impact of the Government's decisions, legislation and policies on women's safety and consider how to protect and enhance women's personal safety. In the context of current financial pressures, it will also consider proposals for a new Personal Safety Bill to tackle violence against women.

The terms will include:

1.1 Investigation of the impact of recent legislation on women's safety

1.2 Investigation of the cumulative impact of different measures, including spending decisions, on women's safety

1.3 Investigation of the impact of changes to tax and benefits on women's safety

1.4 Investigation of the impact of public sector reform on women's safety

The Commission will also consult on Labour's proposed **Personal Safety Bill**, which includes:

1.5 The criminalisation of the specific offence of **stalking**.

1.6 The introduction of **Clare's Law**, to give men and women the right to know if a partner has a history of domestic abuse.

1.7 The introduction of a new prosecution right of **appeal against the granting of bail** by the Crown Court, where there is an ongoing risk to the victim.

1.8 The application of the standard **definition of domestic violence** in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill and the range of ways in which women can provide evidence that domestic violence has occurred.

1.9 Consultation and consideration of any wider measures for inclusion in the Personal Safety Bill, which will work to enhance women's safety and security.

2. Structure and work of the Consultation

The Consultation will consist of the Chair, Vera Baird QC and two Executive Members, Kate Green MP (Shadow Minister for Equalities) and Stella Creasy MP (Shadow Home Office Minister).

The consultation will:

- Call for oral and written evidence on key aspects of the Terms of Reference, ensuring safe spaces in which women victims of violence can share their experiences, if they choose;
- Hold oral evidence hearings and discussion forums on key aspects of the Terms of Reference;
- Meet with stakeholders and experts from the third sector, local authorities, police, health sector, academia and others;
- Review and, if necessary, commission research on key aspects of the Terms of Reference;
- Report its findings to the Labour Party's policy making process.

3. Timeframe

25th Nov 2011	Consultation launched.
Dec 2011 – Feb 2012	Nationwide evidence gathering sessions covering key aspects of Terms of Reference
24th February 2012	Closure of written consultation period
5th March 2012	Preliminary report of the consultation

4. Contact

Submissions and evidence should be submitted by 24th February 2012 to:

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