

Submission to the Justice and Community Safety Directorate: Charter of Rights for Victims of Crime
17 August 2018

There are three matters which we wish to raise in relation to the Victims Charter: access to the Victims Register, the impact of crime on young people between the ages of 18 and 30 and the need for community education.

1. With regard to access to the Victims Register, we consider that access to the Register should be included in the Victims Charter, including ongoing access for victims of serious crime. This would be underpinned by appropriate and effective policy and procedures.
2. In our experience, victims of crime between the ages of 18 and 30 suffer serious and long term consequences in relation to their education, social networks and support, career, income and future life. We would like to see this group specifically identified in the Charter and their needs addressed. We suggest more research is needed on the impact of crime on this group and how best to assist them.
3. Victims of crime would benefit from better understanding across the community of the impact of crime on victims as well as its financial burden on all citizens. Inclusion of community education in the Charter would form a basis for such understanding. Community education programs could be conducted through community councils and other community groups as well as through local media.