

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO THE PROBATION BOARD FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND VICTIM INFORMATION SCHEME 2005**

2005 No. 432

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Northern Ireland Office and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

2. Description

2.1 The Probation Board for Northern Ireland Victim Information Scheme puts in place a mechanism whereby if a crime results in the statutory supervision of an offender by the Probation Board for Northern Ireland the victim of that crime should have access to information about the supervision of the offender.

3. Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

3.1 None

4. Legislative Background

4.1 Article 24 of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 requires the Secretary of State to make a victim information scheme to be provided by the Probation Board for Northern Ireland.

5. Extent

5.1 This instrument applies to Northern Ireland only.

6. European Convention on Human Rights

6.1 Not applicable.

7. Policy Background

7.1 Following recommendations made in the Review of the Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland published in March 2000 to increase criminal justice services to victims a victim information scheme has been developed in respect of the statutory supervision of offenders by the probation service. The information provided to victims includes type of statutory supervision and defines the type of information to be provided, who can receive it and when information can be refused.

8. Impact

8.1 A regularly impact assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as it has no impact on the private or voluntary sector.

8.2 The Probation Board for Northern Ireland will administer the scheme.

9. Contact

Tom Haire at the Northern Ireland Office. Telephone: 028 90529122 or e-mail: Tom.Haire@nio.x.gsi.gov.uk can answer any queries regarding this instrument.