

**A public consultation on**

**Speaking to Witnesses at Court draft guidance**

**Response document**

The purpose of this consultation is to seek a wide range of views on the draft guidance about Speaking to Witnesses at Court. The aim of this guidance is to set out the role played by prosecutors at or before court in ensuring that witnesses give their best evidence.

When responding, it would be helpful if you would complete this pro forma. Please fill out your name and address or that of your organisation, if relevant. You may withhold these details if you wish but we will be unable to include you in future consultation exercises. The consultation closes on 16 March 2015.

**Contact details**

Please supply details of who has supplied this response.

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| Response completed by (name): |  |
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| Position in organisation (if appropriate): |  |
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| Name of organisation (if appropriate): |  |
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| Address:  |  |
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| Contact phone number: |  |
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| Contact email address: |  |
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| Date: |  |

**Consultation questions**

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| 1. Does the guidance cover the key issues that impact upon the victim or witness’s experience at court? If not, what other subject areas might be covered?
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| 1. Does the guidance strike the right balance between supporting the witness in advance of their appearance at court and ensuring that the trial is, and is seen to be, fair to the defendant?
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| 1. Does the guidance set out clearly what a prosecutor should do when meeting a witness at court? Is there anything else that might be done?
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| 1. Does the guidance give enough information regarding other support services at court?
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| 1. Do you have any other comments on the guidance you would like to offer?
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| How did you hear about this consultation? (Please tick relevant box) |
| [ ]  National press[ ]  Television or Radio[ ]  Specialist press (e.g. Law Society Gazette)[ ]  CPS website[ ]  Other website[ ]  CPS Twitter feed[ ]  Other Twitter feed (or social networking site)[ ]  Word of mouth[ ]  Other |