

**NOVEMBER 2024**

**CONSULTATION ON THE REPEAL OF THE VAGRANCY ACT 1824 AND THE VAGRANCY (IRELAND) ACT 1847**

 **Response Form**

**RESPONDING TO THE CONSULTATION**

The Department of Justice (DOJ) is seeking views on its plans to decriminalise rough sleeping and begging by repealing the relevant provisions of the Vagrancy Act 1824 and the Vagrancy (Ireland) Act 1847 and whether respondents consider that repeal will leave significant gaps in the criminal law, taking into account the range of other offences available to deal with public order, disorderly behaviour and harassment in public places.

Please use this form to provide your response, and once completed send by **email** to: **CPB@justice-ni.gov.uk**or by **post** to:

Department of Justice

Criminal Policy Unit

Massey House

Stormont Estate

Belfast

BT4 3SX

Additional pages may be submitted if required.

Responses should be submitted by **midnight on 21st January 2025**.

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| **CONFIDENTIALITY AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION LEGISLATION** |

The DoJ may publish responses to the call for evidence and a summary response report on its website.

Any contact details or information that will identify a respondent as a private individual will be removed prior to publication. All information will be handled in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Your information will not be shared outside the Department.

**What rights do you have?**

• You have the right to obtain confirmation that your data is being processed, and access to your personal data.

• You are entitled to have personal data rectified if it is inaccurate or incomplete.

• You have a right to have personal data erased and to prevent processing, in specific circumstances.

• You have the right to ‘block’ or suppress processing of personal data, in specific circumstances.

• You have the right to data portability, in specific circumstances.

• You have the right to object to the processing, in specific circumstances.

• You have rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling.

Respondents should also be aware that DoJ’s obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) may require that any responses not subject to specific exemptions under the Act be communicated to third parties on request.

If you have any concerns about how your personal data has been handled please contact the DoJ’s **Departmental Data Protection Officer**:

Email: DataProtectionOfficer@justice-ni.gov.uk or Telephone: 02890 378617

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner’s Office.

**The Information Commissioner's Office – Northern Ireland**

3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB

Email: ni@ico.org.uk Website: [www.ico.org.uk/](http://www.ico.org.uk/)

Telephone: 0303 123 1114

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| **ABOUT YOU** |
| ***Please provide your name and details in this section.******All information will be handled in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)***I am responding as... *(Please tick one option only)*[ ]  A member of the public (please indicate if you are content for your name to be shared)[ ]  On behalf of an organisation[ ]  Other.........................................................(*Please specify*) |
| Name: |  |
| Job Title: (*if applicable*) |  |
| Organisation: (*if applicable*) |  |
| Address: |  |
| City/Town: |  |
| Postcode: |  |
| Email Address: |  |

**Question 1:**

**What are your views on the Department’s plans to decriminalise rough sleeping and begging by repealing the relevant provisions in the Vagrancy Act 1824 and the Vagrancy (Ireland) Act 1847?**

**Question 2:**

**What, if any, gaps do you consider this would leave in the criminal law, taking into account the range of other offences available to deal with public order, disorderly behaviour and harassment in public places?**