

Annex A: Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014

The principles set out in sections 1 and 1A of the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014 are (emphasis added):

- that a victim or witness should be able to **obtain information** about what is happening in the investigation or proceedings
- that the **safety** of a victim or witness should be ensured during and after the investigation and proceedings
- that a victim or witness should have access to appropriate **support** during and after the investigation and proceedings
- that, in so far as it would be appropriate to do so, a victim or witness should be able to **participate** effectively in the investigation and proceedings
- that victims should be treated in a **respectful, sensitive, tailored, professional** and **non-discriminatory** manner
- that victims should, as far as is reasonably practicable, be able to **understand** information they are given and **be understood** in any information they provide
- that victims should have their **needs** taken into consideration
- that, when dealing with victims who are children, the **best interests of the child** should be considered, taking into account the child's age, maturity, views, needs and concerns
- that victims should be **protected** from—
 - (i) secondary and repeat victimisation
 - (ii) intimidation
 - (iii) retaliation