



# Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014 2014 asp 1

## *General principles*

### **[<sup>F1</sup>1A. Further general principles applicable to victims**

- (1) Each person mentioned in section 1(2) must have regard to the principles mentioned in subsection (2) in carrying out functions conferred on the person by or under any enactment in so far as those functions relate to a person who is or appears to be a victim in relation to a criminal investigation or criminal proceedings.
- (2) The principles are—
  - (a) that victims should be treated in a respectful, sensitive, tailored, professional and non-discriminatory manner,
  - (b) 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,
  - (c) that victims should have their needs taken into consideration,
  - (d) 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, and
  - (e) that victims should be protected from—
    - (i) secondary and repeat victimisation,
    - (ii) intimidation, and
    - (iii) retaliation.
- (3) In this section, “child” means a person under 18 years of age.]

#### **Textual Amendments**

- F1** S. 1A inserted (23.12.2015) by [The Victims' Rights \(Scotland\) Regulations 2015 \(S.S.I. 2015/444\)](#), regs. 1(2), 2

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014, Section 1A.