

Sharing information about a crime

Anyone in England, Scotland and Wales can report a crime to the police. A non-disclosure agreement cannot stop someone doing this.

Victims of crime in Scotland

Victims of crime in Scotland can:

- report a crime to the police
- [whistleblow](#) about a criminal offence at work

They can only share this information with others if the non-disclosure agreement says they can.

Victims of crime in England and Wales

Victims of crime in England and Wales have extra rights related to sharing information about a crime. These rights apply even if they signed a non-disclosure agreement.

Victims of crime in England and Wales have a right to make a 'permitted disclosure' under the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024. This means they can share information about a crime with some people, to get advice and emotional support.

This law came into effect on 1 October 2025.

A victim of crime is someone who suffers harm as a result of being subjected to a criminal offence. This includes:

- those who reasonably believe they are a victim of crime
- someone who has witnessed a crime

Victims are protected even if they have not reported the crime to the police.

Sharing information in England and Wales

Anyone who is a victim of crime in England or Wales can share information about the crime with:

- the police or other bodies that investigate crime
- a qualified lawyer
- regulated professionals
- victim support services
- regulators
- the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA)

A victim of crime can share information with anyone authorised to receive information on behalf of these groups. For example, a receptionist at a law firm.

Victims of crime can also share information with their close family.

If they share information with anyone else, they might be in breach of their non-disclosure agreement.

Close family

Victims of crime in England and Wales can share information with close family to get emotional support.

They can share information about the crime with the following family members:

- children
- parents
- their husband, wife, civil partner or long-term partner

They cannot share information about the crime with other family members or close friends. Unless they are specifically listed in the non-disclosure agreement.

Police and other bodies that investigate crime

Victims of crime in England and Wales can share information with the police and other bodies.

Other bodies include:

- Health and Safety Executive
- Competition and Markets Authority
- Environment Agency
- Gambling Commission
- Financial Conduct Authority
- Information Commissioner's Office
- Serious Fraud Office

This is so they can investigate the crime and take legal action.

Example of sharing information with the police

Jo was physically assaulted by their manager at work. Jo signed a non-disclosure agreement to keep the organisation's information confidential. But they can still share information about the crime to help with police investigations.

Lawyers

Victims of crime in England and Wales can share information with a qualified lawyer to get legal advice about the crime.

Regulated professionals

Victims of crime in England and Wales can share information with a regulated professional to get support.

Regulated professionals include:

- paramedics
- social workers
- school teachers

Victim support services

Victims of crime in England and Wales can share information with victim support services to get emotional support.

Victim support services include:

- healthcare professionals
- counsellors
- sexual violence advisers

Regulators

Regulators are bodies that regulate a particular industry. They set standards and consider misconduct. For example:

- the General Medical Council
- the Solicitors Regulation Authority

Victims of crime in England and Wales cannot report a crime directly to a regulator. The police will inform the regulator.

If the regulator then contacts the victim of crime, they can share information to help with an investigation.

Example of sharing information with a regulator

Pat has been physically assaulted at work by a doctor. Pat has signed a non-disclosure agreement with their employer. Pat reported the assault to the police. The police inform the regulator about the crime.

The regulator then asks Pat about the crime. This is to help them decide whether to remove the doctor from the medical register.

Pat can share information with the regulator, even though they signed a non-disclosure agreement.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA)

Victims of crime in England and Wales who signed a non-disclosure agreement on or after 12 December 2025 can share information with The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority to make a claim for compensation in relation to the crime.

If a victim of crime disagrees with the decision about compensation

Victims of crime might disagree with The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority's decision. If this happens, they can share information with courts and tribunals.

Information that cannot be shared

A victim of crime might be in breach of a non-disclosure agreement if they:

- release information into the public domain – for example talking to the press
- share confidential information that does not relate to the crime – for example sharing an organisation's commercial or financial details
- share information with others not listed in the agreement

If someone breaches the terms of an agreement, the other party might be able to take them to court. This is a complex area of law so they should [get legal advice](#).