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Dr Phillip Lee MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Ministry of Justice

24 November 2016

Dear Dr Lee

MoJ Funding of Devolved Victim Services

As I mentioned at our recent meeting, I am in the process of visiting all of the PCCs to find out what is happening on the ground in respect of victim services.

I am sure that you will be pleased to know that we are finding good examples of innovative thinking on the part of practitioners and local managers. I recall from our conversation that you saw this as one of the key benefits of devolving responsibility to a local level.

However, a consistent issue of concern is that MoJ funding is being allocated annually and as a result there is perpetual uncertainty, with staff and managers feeling insecure about their future prospects. I am being told that not only does this uncertainty detract from service delivery, it also diminishes any appetite for future planning.

Some PCCs have sought to mitigate this concern by underwriting the risk, whilst others have felt unable to do so. What they are hoping for from the Government is a three year funding deal.

Whilst I do not normally raise funding issues with Ministers, I am concerned about the detrimental affect the current funding arrangement is having upon service delivery to victims. I should be

most grateful if you could provide me with re-assurance that this issue is being addressed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helena". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the name.

**The Baroness Newlove of Warrington
Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales**