



Baroness Newlove
Victims' Commissioner
BY EMAIL

11 January 2017

MOJ COMMISSIONING OF VICTIMS' SERVICES – 2017/18 FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

Thank you for your letter of 24 November in which you raised the issue of Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) funding for victims' services. I have today written to PCCs to confirm funding allocations for 2017/18.

I would like to reassure you that the Government is committed to making sure that victims of crime receive the support they need to help them cope with, and recover from, the impact crime has had on their lives. We have protected the total budget for victims' services across the Spending Review period. Within that total budget we have again protected, for 2017/18, the PCC victims' services commissioning budget at the 2016/17 level of £63.15m. In addition, we are again allocating a further c£4.7m to PCCs in 2017/18 for the purpose of commissioning, at local level, support for victims of child sexual abuse.

As well as the funding provided for local commissioning, the MoJ nationally commissions and/or provides funding to the following services and these arrangements will continue in 2017/18:

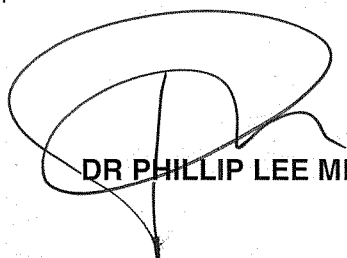
- The National Homicide Service to support people bereaved by homicide since 2010 and funding to 15 homicide support organisations who provide specialist therapy and counselling services to support people bereaved by homicide both since and prior to 2010;
- The Court Based Witness Service to support witnesses attending court in all criminal courts across England and Wales;
- Support for female and male victims of rape;
- Support for victims of child sexual abuse (through a number of female rape support centres);
- Support for victims of terrorism; and
- Support for victims of road traffic crime through a telephone helpline and information pack.

I am sure you will agree that this commitment demonstrates the importance this Government places on providing victims and witnesses with the support they require.

Equally, the principle underpinning funding is that it achieves the best possible support for victims of crime. My officials are working closely with PCCs to develop a clear evidence base of what has been and is working for victims from the support arrangements we fund, both nationally and by PCCs. I note with interest your findings of innovation and good practice from your visits to PCCs, and I would also very much welcome your insight and views as we develop our evidence base.

This is an important opportunity to assess and ensure that the foundations of funding beyond 2017/18 are informed by evidence of what works best, and best practice standards. You have highlighted PCCs' concerns about annual funding for victims' services and the challenges this creates in commissioning of services. I am very happy to consider the suggestion that we provide confirmation of funding over a longer time frame. However, this must be based on a robust case that makes sure effective support is available to the people that need it the most. Our work to develop consistent outcomes across victims' services will help provide this evidence base.

Yours ever



DR PHILLIP LEE MP