



Gweinyddiaeth
Cyfiawnder

Alex Davies-Jones MP
Parliamentary Under-
Secretary of State

Ministry
of Justice

Rupert Matthews

Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland,
Police Headquarters,
St John's,
Enderby,
Leicester
LE19 2BX,

MoJ ref: ADR 123126

24 April 2025

Dear Rupert

VICTIMS' FUNDING

Thank you for your letter of 8 April 2025 regarding funding for victims' support services. I fully appreciate the difficult situation that many services are experiencing, and acknowledge that, for some, funding challenges mean that reductions in service delivery are unavoidable. We are in a challenging fiscal environment that has required the Lord Chancellor and myself to take some very difficult decisions to restore public finances and deliver departmental commitments to repairing and strengthening the justice system.

This Government values the role of support services and appreciate the incredibly important work they do to support victims to cope and recover. Despite the difficult fiscal situation, we are working hard to make the case for additional funding as part of the upcoming Spending Review, however we are unable to pre-empt the outcome of this.

For this financial year, the MOJ has protected Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) spending, through ringfenced funding for sexual violence and domestic abuse support, as much as possible by maintaining them at their current funding level. The Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Fund, which provides funding to over 60 specialist organisations to support victims of sexual abuse, has also being maintained at its current level.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to increase these amounts in 2025/26 for inflation or otherwise, due to the need to find savings across the department. I appreciate you sharing with me the impact the reduction in the core funding is having on service delivery in your area, and I am sorry to hear that this has resulted in a reduction in support. We recognise the significant pressure that victims' services are under, and my teams have been working with local commissioners and the sector to monitor the risks to delivery. This government is fully committed to halving VAWG in a decade, and we will do all we can to ensure this becomes a reality.

I appreciate the strong working relationships your office has with my officials and, through our engagement with PCCs and their offices, it is evident that commissioners and services are dedicated to delivering the best possible support to victims, despite the challenges that you highlight. Support for victims is central to the success of our Safer Streets mission, including halving VAWG in a decade, and I recognise the need to ensure these services are effectively funded.

Thank you again for taking time to write, highlighting these important issues. I hope this response provides some additional context, addressing the concerns outlined in your correspondence. My office will be in touch to set up a meeting.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Alex Davies-Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ALEX DAVIES-JONES MP
Minister for Victims and Violence Against Women and Girls