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BY EMAIL ONLY

10 May 2022

Dame Diana Johnson MP
Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee

Dear Dame Diana,

HOME AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT: 'INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF RAPE'

I am writing regarding the Home Affairs Select Committee's report, 'Investigation and prosecution of rape'. I welcome the Committee's report and the Committee's thorough scrutiny of the criminal justice system's response to rape, an issue that the Government is committed to improving.

I am grateful for the Committee's acknowledgement of the Government's commitment as demonstrated through the publication of our End-to-End Rape Review in June 2021, as well as the potential of key actions such as Operation Soteria. The full response to the report will be provided within the standard duration.

I write to address two discrete points that you made in correspondence to me on 11 April. The first is the use of the word 'scorecard' to describe the data tool that measures our progress towards the ambitions in the Rape Review. While we recognise concerns around the name 'scorecard', it reflects the wider use of the term across the public and private sector as a tool to communicate system performance in a balanced manner. We have ensured this balanced approach by including 'volume' metrics to ensure that data is seen alongside wider contextual factors.

Secondly, you requested confirmation of the Minister with overall responsibility for the Rape Review. The Minister of State at the Ministry of Justice, Victoria Atkins, is the lead minister for implementation of the Rape Review.

Minister Atkins chairs the monthly Rape Review Task Force which is attended by the Crown Prosecution Service, the Home Office and the police to drive progress. The Ministry of Justice has also established the quarterly Implementation Advisory Group attended by key external stakeholders who provide advice on implementation and valued scrutiny.

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP