



Home Affairs Committee

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From the Committee Chair

Max Hill QC
Director of Public Prosecutions
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Victims' Right to Review Scheme

Dear Max,

Thank you for meeting with me earlier this month. It was helpful to discuss the work of the Crown Prosecution Service in more depth.

I write to ask about the data the Crown Prosecution Service make publicly available in relation to the Victims' Right to Review (VRR) Scheme.

As you will be aware, one of the recommendations in the Home Affairs Select Committee's report on the Investigation and prosecution of rape focused on the VRR Scheme:

Given some victims and survivors' negative experiences of the Victims' Right to Review Scheme, we agree with Rape Crisis England and Wales that the Government require the police and the CPS to publish data covering how many cases are submitted for review, how many decisions are upheld and how many reconsidered, and the reasons for these review decisions. This data should be analysed by gender, case type, ethnicity and other factors, enabling the system to become more open. The Government should take this step as part of its work on the upcoming Victims' Bill.

The Government has now responded to our report; its response was published on 25 July 2022.¹

In relation to this recommendation, it was useful to have our attention brought to the annual data the CPS publishes on VRR receipts and outcomes, particularly as it is broken down by principal offence category. It is also positive to see that the CPS is working to enhance its VRR data and to publish it on a more frequent basis.

¹ [The investigation and prosecution of rape: Government Response to the Committee's Eighth Report of Session 2021-22](#) (25 July 2022).

I would be grateful if you could answer a number of follow-up questions we had:

1. How does the CPS plan to enhance the VRR data it makes publicly available?
2. Will overarching reasons for review decisions be shared in the future, for example, the “common themes and reasons for overturns” in the internal specific reports referred to in the Government’s response? If not, why not?
3. As part of the “internal learning and analysis” outlined in the response, would data be analysed by gender, case type, ethnicity and other such factors? Does the CPS plan to make such analysis publicly available in the spirit of transparency and accountability?
4. How frequently do you hope to publish VRR data in the future?

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diana Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping underline.

Dame Diana Johnson MP