



Ministry
of Justice

Alex Davies-Jones MP
Parliamentary Under-
Secretary of State

Gweinyddiaeth
Cyfiawnder

Rt Hon Lord foster of Bath, Chair
Justice and Home Affairs Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

2 June 2025

Dear Lord Foster,

THE VICTIMS AND PRISONERS ACT 2024 (PERMITTED DISCLOSURES) REGULATIONS 2025

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Lords Justice and Home Affairs Select Committee to inform you of the Statutory Instrument (SI) the Ministry of Justice is laying in relation to [section 17 of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 \(the 2024 Act\)](#), which we plan to commence on the 1 October 2025.

Section 17 makes clear in statute that non-disclosure agreements cannot be enforced insofar as they seek to prevent victims from reporting the crime to the police. Section 17 also extends this protection to apply to certain other disclosures necessary for victims to access confidential advice and support needed to cope and recover from the impact of crime, including to qualified lawyers, victim support services and close family members, for certain specified purposes. Non-disclosure agreements signed on or after 1 October 2025 will be legally unenforceable to the extent that they seek to prevent such disclosures. This means that individuals who are a victim of crime, or reasonably believe they are a victim of crime, and who have signed a non-disclosure agreement on or after 1 October 2025, will be allowed to disclose information to certain individuals for certain purposes related to the criminal conduct that they have been a victim of, even if their non-disclosure agreement seeks to prevent them from doing so.

Prior to commencing this important measure, we want to make sure that victims are able to get the appropriate support from the right agencies and professionals. As such, this instrument makes three changes to section 17 by:

- Adding the following to the list of bodies at section 17(2) of the 2024 Act to which a victim of crime, or someone who reasonably believes they are a victim of crime, can disclose information about the criminal conduct without fear of legal action under a non-disclosure agreement:
 - The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA), for the purposes of making a claim for compensation; and
 - Courts and tribunals, for the purposes of issuing or pursuing proceedings regarding a decision of the CICA in relation to a claim for compensation.

- Amending the definition of a "qualified lawyer" in section 17(6) of the 2024 Act to include Registered Foreign Lawyers, so that a victim of crime, or someone who reasonably believes they are a victim of crime, can make disclosures to these lawyers for the purpose of seeking legal advice about the criminal conduct.

Yours sincerely,

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