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Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
Chair, Women and Equalities Committee
House of Commons
London
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SW1A 0AA

7th July 2021

Dear Caroline

Thank you for your letter of 10 June, which helpfully outlined some of the key issues covered when your Committee took oral evidence on 28 April on the topic of 'Changing cultures underpinning male violence against women'.

I am very grateful to the Committee for its valuable work in exploring these issues and highlighting the need to tackle harmful gender norms and drive attitudinal change.

We know we need long-term cultural and societal change to deal with this issue, including through awareness-raising and education. We absolutely recognise the importance of prevention, which came through strongly in our national Call for Evidence. I was overwhelmed with the volume of feedback we received, with more than 180,000 replies in total, demonstrating the strength and breadth of concern about violence against women and girls.

I have asked my officials to consider the Committee's evidence carefully in relation to the development of the new Tackling Violence against Women and Girls Strategy. The new Strategy will draw on a wide range of evidence sources, including our national Call for Evidence. We have been analysing the responses and working with departments across Government and with experts from the violence against women and girls sector to develop an ambitious Strategy that will focus on preventing these crimes from happening in the first place, supporting victims and survivors, and pursuing perpetrators.

Following the Tackling VAWG Strategy, we will also publish a dedicated and complementary Domestic Abuse Strategy in recognition of its high-volume and high-harm nature.

The new Tackling VAWG Strategy is intended to provide a basis for driving a step-change in society's response to preventing, as well as responding to, these

horrendous crimes. I hope the commitments set out in the strategy will drive real change and help transform the response to tackling these crimes. I look forward to returning to the Committee once the Strategy has been published.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria Atkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Victoria Atkins MP
Minister for Safeguarding