

Sir Robert Neill MP
Chair
Justice Select Committee

The Right Honourable
Dominic Raab MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Lord Chancellor & Secretary of
State for Justice

MoJ ref: 95632

24 March 2022

Dear Sir Bob,

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MULTI-YEAR VICTIMS' FUNDING, SECTION 28 ROLLOUT AND LOCAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM SCORECARDS

I am pleased to share with you that tomorrow the Government will announce a package of measures to support victims of crime across England and Wales. We have confirmed multi-year funding of £147 million per year, and a minimum of £440 million over the next three years for vital victim support services. This, alongside the first phase of the national rollout of pre-recorded cross-examination for complainants of sexual and modern slavery offences and the publication of local Criminal Justice System scorecards, marks a significant investment in and improvement to victim support.

The multi-year investment commitment to victims' services improves upon the current system of funding confirmed on an annual basis. Moving to a long-term model with significant investment will allow service providers to ensure consistency of support, build capacity and plan for future development. This multi-year funding will apply to Police and Crime Commissioners for the commissioning of local practical and therapeutic services, the Ministry of Justice Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Fund, the national Witness Service and the national Homicide Service. The commitment to deliver at least £147 million a year up to 2025 delivers on the Government's commitment to ensure that high-quality and consistent support is available for victims of crime when they need it most.

In addition to these measures, the Government is publishing the first local Criminal Justice System scorecards, alongside the next set of national scorecards which were first published in December. These will improve transparency of the system and enable system improvement at a local level for both all crime and recorded adult rape offences. The local scorecards present easily accessible local data at national, Local Criminal Justice Board, Crown Prosecution Service Area and Police Force Area level. We will be using the scorecards to give citizens a view of what is happening in their local area, to understand local variations, to identify best practice and enable collaboration across the Criminal Justice System at a local level. As we are using data from individual police forces, a small proportion of data in some local areas have not been provided or were not of sufficient quality to include. We are committed to working with partners to improve this in future iterations of the scorecards. The local scorecard can be accessed from Friday 25 March at 9:30am at criminal-justice-scorecard.justice.gov.uk/.

I can also confirm that we will be rolling out Section 28 pre-recorded cross-examination to Crown Courts on the North Eastern Circuit from 31 March, in the first phase of the national rollout of Section 28 for complainants of sexual and modern slavery offences that we announced in December. This will begin with York, Grimsby and Hull Crown Courts on 31 March with Bradford to follow on 4 April and Teesside on 11 April, via commencement order. This will increase the number of courts at which this cohort can on

application pre-record their evidence earlier in the process and outside of a live trial, where this is in the interests of justice.

In 2021 over 1,800 vulnerable and intimidated witnesses used Section 28 to pre-record their cross-examination. We are working with the police, judiciary and the Crown Prosecution Service to make Section 28 an option available for this cohort in all Crown Courts, where this is in the interests of justice, as soon as practicable.

I am sure you will agree that these measures mark a significant improvement to victims' support and services, as well as transparency of Criminal Justice System performance, and demonstrate the Government's commitment to increase support for victims of crime. I look forward to continuing to work with you to deliver quality justice throughout the system.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dominic Raab', with a stylized flourish at the end.

RT HON DOMINIC RAAB MP