



From: Name Redacted
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I&S

To:
1. Home Secretary
2. Minister for Safeguarding

Date: 26 March 2020

Update on Violence Against Women and Girls and COVID-19

Issue:

Government response to the potential impact of COVID-19 on crimes involving Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

Timing:

Pressing. A speedy response will allow us to implement the plans below as quickly as possible.

Overview:

HO, MHCLG and MOJ are working together to understand how best to support victims of domestic abuse and VAWG during COVID-19. We have also engaged with HMT.

There is also a separate work strand on protecting vulnerable children which is being led by the Tackling Exploitation and Abuse Unit and our work on domestic abuse and children is feeding into that project.

The Domestic Abuse Commissioner has written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Home office has been asked to reply on behalf of Government. The Victims Commissioner has also written to the Prime Minister pressing for action, and the Home Office has been asked to draft a response for No10.

This submission summarises our initial recommendations for action and includes draft responses to both letters (Annex B). Original letters are at Annex C and Annex D.

As the situation is moving fast, we are likely to recommend further actions once we have more data.

Recommendations:

That you agree

- i. Funding: to double the funding to HO domestic abuse helplines to provide immediate contingency funding.