

3. On 27 April Irrelevant & Sensitive (on 1 May) brought a proposed claim for Judicial Review against MHCLG regarding the failure to provide emergency funding for adequate accommodation for domestic abuse survivors during Covid-19. The prompt launch of this fund will help MHCLG's position in relation to the proposed claim for Judicial Review.
4. Our previous advice on the timeline was based on a one week bidding window. The DA Commissioner previously indicated this would be acceptable to the sector but has now said that all Departments give 2 weeks to services to place bids. However, this would not enable release of payment to successful bidders in June as you requested. We recommend continuing to run a one week bidding window from 7 May, given the imperative to get money out as fast as possible. The sector knows this is coming and the straightforward form should mitigate concerns. **Do you agree we should retain the one week bidding window?**

### Proposed funding mechanism

5. We propose funding **DA safe accommodation charitable providers directly via a competitive bidding process**. MHCLG will encourage consortium bids where possible to expedite the assessment process. Bids will be assessed against clear criteria (see Annex A for the Fund Prospectus). This will ensure allocations are fair, transparent, reach those who need it most, and provide value for money. The DA Commissioner Designate has also agreed to provide an expert external view on our proposed allocations, and her input will be welcomed by the sector.
6. We have made the application process straightforward and will encourage second tier services (for example Women's Aid) to support smaller services who may have less capacity in writing their bids. Funding will be allocated via grants using section 70 of the Charities Act 2006, and grant agreements will be signed with successful bidders to make clear expectations over eligible expenditure and outcomes. To ensure the fund will support as many services in need, the prospectus sets an expectation that bids should not exceed £100k per service and makes clear that we will scale back bids if necessary if the fund is over-bid.
7. We propose Fund criteria which prioritise specialist providers who work with protected groups (e.g. BAME, LGBT), as those are often smaller services with tight margins and low reserves which may be more affected by the loss of fundraising opportunities. In addition, victims from protected groups can face additional barriers in accessing support so it is critical to protect these specialised services, which are often unique and as such much harder to replace if lost (see Annex B for the PSED equalities impact assessment).
8. We are working closely with MOJ and HO on joint communications to the DA sector, so they are clear when services should apply to which departmental funding pot. We are also engaging with the National Lottery Communities Fund (NLCF) to prevent duplication of funding. To mitigate the risk of fraud or funding duplication, we will inform applicants that we will be sharing application details with HO, MOJ and the NLCF.

### Finance

9. HMT is providing £8 million to MHCLG following our bid to the DCMS Charities Fund. MHCLG is required to provide 20% match funding (£2m) which we can achieve by repurposing a small proportion from the DA Capacity fund. The funding will be released