

Message

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Sent: 16/04/2020 11:13:09
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Subject: MONITORING: Safeguarding Minister's interview with Woman's Hour - domestic abuse

Dear all,

Please see below a read out of the Safeguarding Minister's interview on Woman's Hour at 10:30am.

In the interview the Minister reiterated the support available to victims of domestic abuse and read out the domestic abuse helpline number.

She also highlighted that the Domestic Abuse Bill continues to be a priority for the Government and that she expects it to be back into the parliamentary system as soon as the various procedures are clarified.

More details can be found below.

Best,
NR

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NR 16 suspected domestic abuse killings in the UK were identified by campaigners since the coronavirus lockdown was imposed. How concerned are you by this information from Vera Baird this morning?

Victoria Atkins: Anyone who works with victims of Domestic Abuse (DA) has been worried about the unintended consequences of the lockdown for people who suffer abuse. This is why we launched a campaign at the weekend to raise public awareness highlighting that if you need help, help is still available. If you are in danger and need help immediately please call 999. If you are in danger and need help but can't talk please dial 999 and unable to talk on the phone, either press 55 on a mobile or wait on a landline and you will be connected to a police call handler who will be able to assist you without you having to speak. We have detailed guidance on the services available at Gov.uk if you search domestic abuse.

NR The HS said she was looking at alternative accommodation to support those in need along with £2m for domestic abuse services. How quickly will this be put in place?

VA: There are 2 announcements that are relevant to the Domestic Abuse sector at the moment. There was the announcement last week where the Chancellor announced £750 million to support charities and domestic abuse charities were mentioned repeatedly in that press conference because we realise they provide frontline services for the public. My department and I are working with charities and the DA Commissioner to understand what they need and for us to make those arrangements.

NR We've known for a long time what they need. In March we learnt from Women's Aid that 64% of referrals to refuges were declined because of the lack of accommodation. Money has not been going into the provision of refuges and there's a real need for them. You should surely know that?