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**From:** Abolhasani Azita [/O=PHU/OU=PHU/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=POISE USERS/CN=IND USERS/CN=ABOLHAA]  
**Sent:** 06/04/2020 6:36:30 PM  
**To:** Patel Priti [priti.patel418@homeoffice.gov.uk]  
**CC:** HS Special Advisers [hsspecialadvisers@homeoffice.gov.uk]; Campion Rosalind [rosalind.campion@homeoffice.gov.uk]; **Name Redacted**@homeoffice.gov.uk]; Mcelligott Jack [jack.mcelligott@homeoffice.gov.uk]  
**BCC:** Abolhasani Azita [azita.abolhasani@homeoffice.gov.uk]  
**Subject:** URGENT SUBMISSION on domestic abuse announcements and work plan  
**Attachments:** submission 01042020 draft 7.1.docx; DA gap analysis Annex A.pptx; Annex B 2020.03.31 DA Action plan v07.docx; Annex C timeline.pptx; Annex E DA response org chart.pdf

Good afternoon Home Secretary,

Following advice you reviewed last week, you requested an action plan and gap analysis for cross government work on domestic abuse during COVID-19 with a potential announcement of funding.

The attached submission sets what evidence we have so far from obtained from the sector and data we are collecting across government to inform our response to the needs of victims.

**Attachments:**

Annex A Gap analysis  
Annex B Action plan  
Annex C Timeline  
Annex D Updated communications plan (within submission)  
Annex E Cross government responsibilities chart

The submission asks:

- **That you agree to provide additional funding for technological solutions to assist DA victims.** There are number of options to support the sector in the short to mid-term (para 7) but for an announcement, it is recommended that we provide £1-2m for helplines and community services to bolster online facilities and staffing of digital support e.g live chats . This could be implemented quickly and alongside this officials are exploring with Fujitsu if they would be interested in making an announcement of support at the same time.
- **That you agree to a formal announcement on this next week.** A press conference with Martin Hewitt is being set up for this Thursday.
- **That you note and agree the attached action plan.-** see annex B

**Safeguarding Minister's comments:**

Reviewing the **responses** to the below questions she asked: On the face of it, I am drawn to the £1M fund initially. We need to be confident that the charities can utilise the money quickly and effectively – this is difficult for them given the pace at which events are moving. We can always add to it if needed in a few weeks.

Q: Moving to the other proposals, the focus on online fora is sensible given the increased traffic on online services. The sum proposed – £1-2m – is not specific, however. What will £500k/ £1M/ £1.5M etc achieve? How quickly will the money be used to expand capacity?

**A: On the funding amounts, it has been left it a bit flexible because stakeholders are just working out their needs and the data is just starting to come in on an increase in demand.**

Given the info we have at the moment, officials say:

- £1m would provide support on technology and increased resourcing for Refuge and Women's Aid web chat facilities, Galop, Respect and our other helplines and extra support for the Techsos and Brightsky apps.
- £2m would also provide broader support to our helplines and other organisations we currently fund eg extra staffing for increased demand. We would also look at a couple of organisations we don't currently fund to see if extra funding might be useful eg ERAW and Imkaan who lead on BAME organisations.

We could get money out to organisations we already fund pretty much immediately, the others might take a little longer but commercial have promised to speed things up and allow single tenders so should be much quicker than usual.

Just FYI, officials have also been in much bigger discussions with HMT about funding today, the latest figures which are being discussed are below so hopefully some of that will happen which would be a much bigger announcement.

- MoJ: c.£15m over three months to DA funding via PCCs for non accommodation based services
- MHCLG: c.£80m over 6 months for refuges
- HO: c.£15m over three months for DA funding for non accommodation based services

**Charlotte's comments:**

- We in speaking to MHCLG about doing a joint announcement if they have anything to add on refuges
- I know the head of public affairs at Fujistu so I have picked up with them too
- Agree with option a on financial support but comms need to make clear this is a changing situation and we won't hesitate to look at providing more support if needed
- How quickly can we get the money to them?

Kind regards,

Azita

**Azita Abolhasani**

Private Secretary to the Home Secretary

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