



Ministry
of Justice

The Right Honourable
David Lidington CBE MP
Lord Chancellor & Secretary of
State for Justice

Robert Neill MP
Chair, Justice Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

31 October 2017

Dear Bob

CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION AND VICTIMS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

I am writing to inform you, and members of Parliament who have raised concerns about the effect of rules of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme on applications from victims of child sexual abuse, about action that I intend to take to explore those concerns fully.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) yesterday issued new guidance to its staff on compensating young victims of sexual abuse. This is part of a series of measures by CICA to improve the way that applications involving claims of child sexual abuse are handled. The new guidance has been shared by CICA with stakeholders, including those who made vital contributions to the review.

While the new guidance and other measures by CICA directly respond to one of the main concerns raised, there are others and I want to make sure that they are all looked at fully. The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) is looking closely at the issue of compensation for victims of child sexual abuse and the Government awaits its recommendations. The wider concerns about rules of the compensation scheme will be looked at as part of my Department's work to develop a strategy for victims, and will take into account the findings and recommendations of the Inquiry. My officials will be working up engagement plans for this work and further information will be provided.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the libraries of both Houses.

Yours ever

RT HON DAVID LIDINGTON CBE MP