



Home Office

Home Secretary

2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
www.gov.uk/home-office

Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP
Chair, Home Affairs Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 4AA

Dear Yvette,

15 August 2019

OFFENSIVE WEAPONS ACT 2019: CONSULTATION ON THE OFFENSIVE WEAPONS ACT STATUTORY GUIDANCE AND GUIDANCE ON KNIFE CRIME PREVENTION ORDERS

I am writing, given the Committee's interest in the work of the Government on serious violence, to let you know that we have today published consultations on provisions in the Offensive Weapons Act that relate to the sale and delivery of corrosive products and knives, the possession of corrosive substances and threatening with offensive weapons and Knife Crime Prevention Order (KCPOs).

The Government's Serious Violence Strategy, published in April last year, set out an ambitious programme of work, supporting robust police enforcement activity, but with a new emphasis on multi-agency working to support prevention and early intervention. A key part of that strategy is the new legislation contained in the Act to give the police more powers to tackle the misuse of knives, acids and firearms.

The Act will help to prevent sales of knives to under 18s, which is already illegal, by prohibiting knives that have been bought online from being sent to residential addresses, unless sellers have arrangements in place, either themselves or with a delivery company, to ensure that the product will not be delivered in to the hands of a person under 18.

Knife Crime Prevention Orders (KCPOs) have been introduced to help intervene with those individuals suspected of carrying knives routinely and to manage habitual knife carriers. The intention is that KCPOs will be preventative rather than punitive – to help prevent knife crime, by using positive requirements to help steer the individual away from serious violence, by addressing factors in their lives that may increase the chances of offending, alongside measures to prohibit certain activities, or introduce geographical restrictions and curfews to help prevent future offences.

The consultations will close on 25 September 2019 and 9 October 2019 (in relation to KCPOs and statutory guidance respectively) and I will ensure that a copy of the summary of consultation response and the Government Response is sent to the Committee for their information when published.

I will arrange for a copy of this letter, and the consultation documents, to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'P. Patel', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP