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Baroness Hamwee

Thank you for raising the important matter about when the provisions of the Domestic Abuse Bill will come into force at the Lords questions on Monday 9 March. I am writing to clarify the response I provided, namely that the measures in the Bill should be in force by March 2021. I share your desire to get the Bill onto the statute book as quickly as practicable and to implement it quickly; only then will it make a real difference to the victims of domestic abuse. Subject to progress of the Bill in the House of Commons, I would expect to see the Domestic Abuse Bill introduced in the House of Lords around June and for it to be enacted by the autumn.

Clause 72 of the Bill provides for the provisions extending the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the criminal courts in England and Wales to come into force two months after Royal Assent. In the normal way, other substantive provisions of the Bill will be commenced by regulations. This is to allow time to make any necessary secondary legislation, prepare and issue guidance to frontline practitioners, undertake training and otherwise ensure that appropriate IT and other systems are geared up for implementation.

The time required to implement provisions of the Bill will vary from one measure to the next. As I indicated in my reply, I would indeed expect certain provisions (including those in Part 2 relating to the Domestic Abuse Commissioner) to be commenced from the fourth quarter of 2020/21, with other provisions being brought into force from 2021/22. We have made clear our intention to pilot the new domestic abuse protection orders and the polygraph testing of domestic abuse perpetrators released on licence before commencing the provisions in Part 3 and clause 63 of the Bill respectively across the whole of England and Wales.

I am copying this letter to Baroness Sanderson, Baroness Armstrong, Baroness Greengross, the Bishop of Gloucester and Baroness Gale. I am also placing a copy of this letter in the House of Lords library

**Baroness Williams of Trafford**