



Home Office

Victoria Atkins MP
Minister for Safeguarding

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Rt Hon Maria Miller MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

27 April 2020

Dear Maria,

Domestic Abuse Commissioner

In our response to the pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Domestic Abuse Bill by the Joint Committee which you chaired, we committed to reviewing the part-time nature of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's role. This review has now been completed and I am writing to provide you with an update.

The designate Commissioner post was advertised based on a time commitment of three days a week to reflect the nature of the role and in order to attract the widest field of candidates. In this regard, it is important to remember that other commissioner roles within the Home Office, for example the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and the lead Commissioner for Counter-Extremism, are part-time appointments and that it is anticipated in time the Domestic Abuse Commissioner will be supported by an office of some 10 to 12 staff.

In September 2019, Nicole Jacobs was appointed on the basis of a three-day week subject to the proviso that she could undertake "such further hours as may from time to time be reasonable and necessary for the performance of [her] duties". Since starting in post, Nicole has on average worked four days per week.

Having reviewed the evidence, we have agreed with Nicole that a four-day week is a more realistic and appropriate match for her responsibilities, and so have accordingly revised her terms of appointment to reflect this with effect from 1 March 2020. I believe this will be a sufficient time commitment to have real impact and meet the ambitions and expectations of the Commissioner's role.

As you know, Part 2 of the Domestic Abuse Bill establishes the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner in law and vests in the Commissioner certain powers. We will further review the time commitment ahead of the provisions in Part 2 of the Bill coming into force.

I am copying this letter to the other members of the former Joint Committee on the Draft Domestic Abuse Bill and to Jess Phillips MP, shadow Minister for Domestic Violence and Safeguarding.

I will arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in both House Libraries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria Atkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Victoria Atkins MP