



Sent by email to:
rosserr@parliament.uk

Lord Rosser
House of Lords

26 January 2021

Dear Richard,

Domestic Abuse Bill: Draft statutory guidance to accompany Parts 3 and 4 of the Bill

Ahead of the debates in Committee, I am writing to you now attaching a copy of the draft statutory guidance which will accompany Parts 3 and 4 of the Bill.

Clause 48 requires the Secretary of State to issue guidance relating to the exercise by relevant persons (in particular, the police) of their functions under Part 3 of the Bill (which provides for the new Domestic Abuse Protection Notices (DAPNs) and Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs)). Relevant persons are required to have regard to the guidance when exercising a function to which the guidance relates.

DAPNs and DAPOs will bring together the strongest elements of the existing protective order regime into a single comprehensive, flexible notice and order to afford immediate and longer-term protection for victims of domestic abuse and their children. These orders will be used to protect victims from all forms of domestic abuse, including non-physical abuse, economic abuse, psychological and emotional abuse and controlling or coercive behaviour. We will consult on a revised version of the draft guidance (as required by clause 48(5)) following Royal Assent and ahead of the planned pilot of DAPNs and DAPOs.

Under clause 58 of the Bill, the Secretary of State will be required to issue statutory guidance underpinning the new duties on tier one local authorities to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children within safe accommodation. Local authorities will need to have regard to the guidance in exercising their functions under Part 4.

This draft of the guidance outlines how local authorities should deliver the duty, including the required members of Local Partnership Boards and how they should operate, how to conduct a robust local needs assessment, and how to develop and give effect to local domestic abuse support strategies. The draft guidance makes clear that where

appropriate, local strategies should be joined up with other relevant local strategies such as violence against women and girls strategies and sets out how local authorities should monitor and evaluate local delivery and report back to central Government.

I am pleased to be publishing these drafts of the Parts 3 and 4 guidance to inform the debates in Committee and at Report. We welcome any comments on the draft guidance which we will consider ahead of the formal consultation which will take place after Royal Assent of the Bill.

I am copying this letter to all Peers with amendments to Parts 3 and 4, namely Lord Kennedy, Lord Ponsonby, Lord Paddick, Baroness Hamwee, Baroness Burt, Baroness Grey-Thompson, Lord Hunt, Lord Woolley, Lord Young of Cookham, Baroness Hussein-Ece, Lord Ramsbotham, Baroness Andrews, Baroness Finlay, Baroness McIntosh, Lord Shinkwin, Lord Brooke and Baroness Meacher. A copy also goes to Jess Phillips. I am also placing a copy of this letter and enclosures in the library of both Houses and publishing the draft guidance on the Bill page on gov.uk.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "S. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Baroness Williams of Trafford