



Sent by email:

Baroness Royall of Blaisdon

royallJ@parliament.uk

24 March 2021

Dear Jan,

Domestic Abuse Bill

I committed to write to you further to the debate on your amendment at Report Stage of the Bill that seeks to provide for a new MAPPA category for serial and high harm domestic abuse and stalking perpetrators and requires the Secretary of State to publish a perpetrator strategy within 12 months of Royal Assent.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the strength of feeling in the House regarding your amendment and I was deeply moved by many of the personal experiences that were shared during the course of the debate. Whilst I stand by my position that this amendment does not resolve the issues many in the House would like it to address, it is clear that there is a consensus that more needs to be done to making sure the system works as it is supposed to. We share this ambition and hoped the package of measures that I outlined in my response demonstrates this fact.

You referenced the article in the Sunday Times when summing up which claimed, “Ministers are considering plans for a national register to monitor men who harass or are violent to women”. Whilst I am not sure where this specific claim from the Sunday Times originates, I would like to explain that we are open to all suggestions that arise from the consultation on the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy and will also take these into consideration in the development of the complementary domestic abuse strategy. It is also possible that this quote is referring to our commitment to improve the MAPPA shared database (also known as ViSOR) used to manage offenders. I outlined in my speech that we will do this through exploring alternative digital offender management systems, building on the success of the existing system in bringing agencies together to share information, as well as strengthening risk assessment, management and mitigation. I hope we will be in a position to say more about this shortly.

I welcome the attention that has been brought to this issue by your amendment and hope that we can continue working together to come to a mutually agreeable solution that seeks to put the safety of women against high harm and serial perpetrators at its heart.

I am copying this letter to Baroness Brinton, Baroness Bertin, Baroness Grey-Thompson, Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, Lord. Strasburger, Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb, Baroness McIntosh of Pickering, Earl Lytton, Lord Rooker, Lord Russell of Liverpool, Lord Paddick and Lord Kennedy of Southwark. I am also placing a copy in the library of the House.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan', written in a cursive style.

Baroness Williams of Trafford