



Sent by email:

Baroness Campbell of Surbiton

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24 March 2021

Dear Jane,

**Domestic Abuse Bill**

I am writing to follow up the debate on your amendments 4, 5 and 6 at Report stage of the Bill on 8 March which related to the inclusion of carers within the definition of “personally connected” in clause 2. I committed to writing to you to set out the engagement the Government had with organisations representing disabled victims as part of the consultation on the Bill.

In February 2017, the then Prime Minister announced plans for work to transform the way we think about and tackle domestic abuse, leading to the introduction of a new Domestic Abuse Bill. On 8 March 2018, the government launched a nationwide consultation to seek views on how this transformation could be achieved. The consultation – Transforming the Response to Domestic Abuse – ran for 12 weeks and closed on 31 May 2018. The aim of the consultation was to harness the knowledge and expertise of victims and survivors, as well as charities, specialist organisations, and experts across policing, criminal justice, health, welfare, education, social services, employment and local authorities who deal with the effects of domestic abuse every day.

The consultation received over 3,200 responses from across the UK. Of these respondents, 85% agreed to the definition of domestic abuse put forward by the Government. Many of the organisations that submitted evidence did so with reference to a wide range of victims and as such it is difficult to pinpoint the number of organisations that solely represented disabled victims. However, our database shows nearly 700 separate references to ‘disabilities/disabled victims’ including over 550 references from a whole host of various organisations and charities citing views on the specialist support disabled victims require, as well as the barriers to accessing such support.

During the consultation period, a large number of events were held across England and Wales, engaging over 1,000 people including victims, charities, local authorities and

professionals from other organisations. As part of this, the Home Office held roundtables with specialist organisations Deaf Hope and Stay Safe East to understand the specific needs and requirements of Deaf and disabled victims.

I am copying this letter to those who spoke in the debate, namely Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, Baroness Brinton, Lord Shinkwin, Lord Randall of Uxbridge, Baroness Grey-Thompson, Lord Cormack, Baroness Watkins of Tavistock, Lord Curry of Kirkharle, Baroness Altmann, Baroness Hollins, Baroness Finlay of Llandaff, Lord Paddick and Baroness Wilcox of Newport; I am also placing a copy in the libraries of both Houses.

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

**Baroness Williams of Trafford**