



Home Office

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Sarah Jones MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

1<sup>st</sup> July 2021

Dear Sarah,

### **Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill: Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews**

During the Bill in Committee on 22 June you requested more information on the Government's intention to establish a new non-statutory oversight board for Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews. I previously covered our intention to establish an oversight board during the Committee's debate on these provisions on 27 May, but I thought it might be helpful to provide the details in writing.

Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews are being introduced to ensure the lessons are learnt from the death of an adult involving an offensive weapon, and to consider whether it would be appropriate for anyone to take action in respect of those lessons learned. Through these lessons and recommendations, we will improve the national and local understanding of causes, patterns, victims and perpetrators of violence; improve the response to serious violence on a national and local scale; and ultimately save lives.

The provisions in the Bill place the duty on the relevant police force, local authority, clinical commissioning group (in England), or local health board (in Wales) to consider whether an Offensive Weapons Homicide Review is required, and, if necessary, to arrange and conduct the review. Given our determination to ensure these reviews are successful, the Government will also have a role to play in overseeing these reviews. We are mindful that recommendations in the reports of existing reviews are not always acted on nor given the attention they deserve. Though there may be many reasons for this, we want to ensure that the recommendations from Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews are properly shared, considered, debated and, where appropriate, implemented locally and nationally in England and Wales.

The Home Office will therefore establish a new Offensive Weapons Homicide Oversight Board to oversee Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews. The Board will be a non-statutory committee composed of experts in safeguarding, homicide, serious violence and public protection who will oversee the local delivery of the reviews. The Board will monitor implementation of any findings, and support dissemination of

learnings locally and nationally. The intention is for the Board to be in place prior to the start of the pilot.

I also confirmed previously that the Home Office would meet the costs of setting up and running the proposed Home Office Oversight Board, and we outlined the expected costs of the Board on pages 46-47 of the Impact Assessment we published alongside of the Bill (available at: [https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0268/20210304%20HO0383%20-%20PCSC%20Overarching%20IA%20-%20FINAL%20CLEAN%20\(signed\).pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0268/20210304%20HO0383%20-%20PCSC%20Overarching%20IA%20-%20FINAL%20CLEAN%20(signed).pdf)).

Appointments to the Board will be made in due course and, as I mentioned in the debate on 22 June, more information on this Board will be provided in due course.

Thank you again for supporting these reviews which will help us gain a better understanding of the circumstances, drivers, and causes that lead one person to take another person's life, so we can better understand how to tackle homicide and save lives.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Commons Library.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria Atkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'V' and 'A'.

**Victoria Atkins MP**  
**Minister for Safeguarding**