



Ministry
of Justice

Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede
Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State for Justice

Lord Bellamy
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0AA

MoJ ref: SUB122792

2 April 2025

Dear Lord Bellamy,

CLARIFICATION OF VICTIMS' ENTITLEMENT TO TRANSLATORS

Thank you for your contributions during the cross-bench debate on the Crown Court backlog on Thursday 20 March. During the debate, Baroness Coussins asked whether the Government intends to amend the Victims' Code to ensure only professional qualified translators and interpreters are used. I am writing to you to clarify the response I gave in the House, as I believe I may have misrepresented what the Victims' Code (the Code) entitles victims to receive from service providers.

The Code currently sets out that victims should be provided with help to be able to understand and to be understood, including, where necessary, access to interpretation and translation services. While there is no specific requirement to do so, we expect that support for victims communicating during the criminal justice process should be provided by qualified professionals. We will consult on changes in the new Code in due course, as part of our commitment to ensure that victims and survivors of crime have the information and support they need. I hope this clarifies the position.

I will deposit a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Kind regards,

LORD PONSONBY OF SHULBREDE