



Ministry
of Justice

Alex Davies-Jones MP
Parliamentary Under-
Secretary of State

Gweinyddiaeth
Cyfiawnder

Andy Slaughter MP, Chair
Justice Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

MoJ ref: SUB 122994

09 April 2025

Dear Andy,

CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION SCHEME REVIEW UPDATE

I am writing to update you on the previous Government's review of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2012 (the Scheme).

The previous administration announced the review in 2018, as part of its Victims Strategy. It held public consultations in 2020, 2022 and 2023 and did not respond to these before the general election. I have considered the proposals and options presented in the three consultations.

The 2020 consultation was wide-ranging, presenting potential changes that might be made to the Scheme. The landscape in which the Scheme sits and in which those proposals were made, has changed significantly since 2020. This has led me to decide not to respond substantively to this consultation.

The 2022 and 2023 consultations included considerations of a recommendation of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, and I have prepared a Government consultation response document regarding these two consultations which will be laid in Parliament.

When considering how to proceed regarding the 2020 consultation, I considered developments regarding the Scheme. The consultation considered a range of proposals to make the Scheme simpler and more accessible for applicants. As part of this, it explored issues highlighted in Victims' Commissioner's 2019 report, *"Compensation without re-traumatisation: The Victims; Commissioner's review into Criminal Injuries Compensation"*. Since then, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA), which independently administers the Scheme, has worked hard to make its processes more accessible and sensitive. For instance, all applications to the CICA may now be made online. Its staff have undergone trauma-informed training, and it has dedicated caseworkers for the most complex and difficult cases.

The wider policy landscape has also changed since 2020, with Government provision for victims having developed. The Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 introduced measures that seek to improve victims' experiences of the criminal justice system. It makes it clear that victims require services under the Victims' Code and strengthens agencies' accountability for its delivery. This includes the right to be told about compensation. We are now implementing reforms in the Act, and we aim to consult on the revised Victims' Code in due course.

I know stakeholders have concerns about the Scheme, and there were many calls for change among the consultation responses. I acknowledge those concerns and recognise the importance of ongoing scrutiny of the Scheme by the Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales, Parliamentary Committees and other stakeholders.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Alex Davies-Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ALEX DAVIES-JONES MP
Minister for Victims and Violence Against Women and Girls