



Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales  
2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4JA  
[commissioner@domesticabusecommissioner.independent.gov.uk](mailto:commissioner@domesticabusecommissioner.independent.gov.uk)  
3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020

**Sent by email**

Dear Kit Malthouse MP,

As designate Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales, I would welcome a meeting with you to further discuss how we can work together to help reduce serious violent crime. As you will be very aware, in the year ending March 2020, domestic abuse related crime reported to the police accounted for more than a third of all violence against the person crimes. We know that domestic abuse remains under-reported so as we take steps to encourage victims to come forward this is only likely to increase. Data from the ONS Crime Survey for England and Wales shows that the prevalence of domestic abuse has remained largely unchanged over the last five years.

I have strongly welcomed the criminal justice measures in the Domestic Abuse Bill, including the introduction of new Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Domestic Abuse Protection Orders. I believe that this will significantly improve our ability to protect victims from all forms of domestic abuse. Beyond the measures in the Bill I believe that there are further interventions that could be made to significantly reduce serious violent crime. I have written to the Home Secretary to highlight the importance of prioritising spending allocations on tackling domestic abuse in order to help meet the department's objective in this area.

The Femicide Census, which is supported by Freshfields, Deloitte and Women's Aid (England) is a unique source of comprehensive information about women who have been killed in the UK and the men who have killed them. I have been working closely with the femicide working group to discuss proposals to build on this work using the new powers of my office to: better collate reviews containing recommendations for preventing future deaths; follow up recommendations with public bodies; and highlight systemic change in order to identify national policy change which could be made to reduce the number of deaths. I would very much welcome a further conversation with you to explore how, working in collaboration with the Home Office, we can assist in completing this work, and reversing the worrying trend, as part of the Government's commitment to reduce serious violent crime and homicide.

I am also keen to discuss the forthcoming publication of the Government's end to end rape review. I have some concerns about the robustness of the draft

recommendations and would welcome the opportunity to discuss these with you ahead of publication. I would also strongly recommend that the government refrains from publishing the report until the outcome of the judicial review of CPS rape charging policy and practice is made public. For the sake of thoroughness, this will enable the government's review to take into full account the evidence informing the judicial review outcome. This is currently not publicly available, but is critical to fully understand policy and practice on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Jacobs', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales