



Ministry
of Justice



Making sure victims can get the support they need

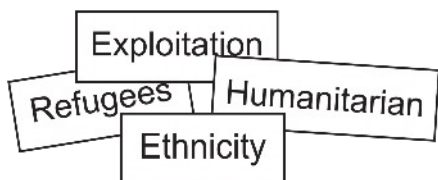
A victim is a person who has had a crime committed against them.



Easy read version of:
the Victims Funding Strategy.



This is an Easy read version of the “**Victims Funding Strategy**”. It says what the Government plans to do to make sure money is used effectively to support **victims** of crime.



Some more difficult words are in **bold**. They are explained at the back.



The Victims Code explains which services must support **victims**. It says **victims** should be able to get help from services which are the right ones for them.



Getting the right support makes things better for **victims**.



It means they feel able to take their case to court and through the **criminal justice system**.



Getting support from someone like an **Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA)** has shown more **victims** go through with a criminal case.



Getting support in the best way for them means **victims** can start to get over the crime.



The **Ministry of Justice** needs to make sure money is used effectively for **victim support services**. This will mean that all **victims** of crime will be sure they can get the right support when they need it.



The money for services that support **victims** comes from different parts of the government and their agencies.



The government gives money across the country to services and **Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs)**, local councils and health commissioners.



Each agency decides how they use the money to help make things better for **victims**. Doing things this way makes it harder for **victims** to know where to go for help or how to get the right help for them.



This also means not all services are funded in the same way.



It will be better for **victims** if national and local services work better together.



The **Victims Funding Strategy** will show agencies how to work together to make sure **victims** get the best support everywhere.



It will look at:

- how to use funding in the same way across all government departments



- stop the things that make on-going funding harder to provide



- how to make **commissioning services** the same everywhere.



The **Strategy** will also make sure the Government will be able to check if it is making things better for **victims**.



This **Strategy** is adding more on to the **2018 Victims Strategy** and the work that has been done since to make sure **victims** are supported properly.



This **Strategy** has 3 aims.

Aim 1 – Fund victim support services in a better way that meets victims needs



Departments who are responsible for funding **victim support services** need to work together better. They need to make sure **victims** can get support where and when they need it.



Year			
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
		Jul	Aug
		Nov	Dec

There are 3 things that make this harder for them to do. They are:

- funding is given for only 1 year at a time



- funding is not the same in all parts of the country



- it is harder for some providers to apply for funding.



To change this the Government will:

- make it easier to apply for funding



- make sure all Government departments will use the same ways for funding, commissioning and supporting victims.



The Government will also make sure that funding for **victim support** services can be given for longer than 1 year.

Aim 2 - Making it easier to get support



Victims should be able to get support whenever they need to.



Covid showed how important it is to offer support to **victims** remotely too.



The way funding and commissioning happens needs to think about how to meet the needs of **victims** most at risk. For example, this could be people who have **post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)** because of the crime that has happened to them.



Thinking about how services get funding is important too.



There are 3 things that make this harder for them to do. They are:

1. Not enough checking on how commissioners work to provide services.



2. Not enough services for **victims** in all parts of the country.



3. Not enough support that meets **victims'** needs, especially those with **protected characteristics**.



To change this the Government will have a set of rules for **commissioning** services. These will be called the **national commissioning standards**. Everyone involved in **commissioning** services should follow these rules.

The **standards** are:



1. **Victims** will be involved in all parts of how commissioning happens.



2. All agencies will work together to make sure **victims** get support that meets their needs and that it is easier for them.



3. All **victims** are treated equally and fairly, and services respond to all **victims'** needs.



4. There will be clear ways for reporting and studying information, making it clear what is being collected and what it is being collected for.



5. Encourage funding that lasts for more than 1 year at a time and looking to find ways to help services keep going after funding ends.



The Ministry of Justice will make sure they keep looking at the advice on commissioning so that it keeps up to date with important things and funding.



The new **standards** will match what the law says in the draft **Victims Bill** about what agencies need to do to work together to make sure **victims** get the joined-up support they need.

Aim 3 – Being clear about what should be happening



There should be a clear way to check the things we want to happen actually do happen.



We will get information about things like age, ethnic background and how many **victims** are waiting for support.

Everyone will have to collect this information to help them make sure they are doing these things:



1. **Victims** will get support to help them move on with their lives after a crime has happened.



2. **Victims** will have all the information they need about the **Victims Code**.



3. **Victims** will have got all the support they need when they wanted it.



4. **Victims** will have a better experience of the **criminal justice system**.



The outcomes will help to make sure there is a clear strong way to check the impact on **victims**. They will also help to make sure money is being used well to help **victims**.



They will help us to decide how to move forward.



The way we will make sure things are working well is through a new **victims funding governance board**.

What the words mean

Criminal Justice System – the way justice is dealt with in the UK. It involves police, prosecutors, courts and prisons.

Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA)- people who help **victims** of sexual violence.

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) – are elected by people in their local area. They check that local police meet the needs of the community and are in charge of helping **victims**.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) – a mental health condition that can happen when someone has experienced something very frightening.

Prosecutors – lawyers who try to show someone did a crime.

Protected Characteristics – a list of 9 things which the law says is illegal to discriminate against someone because of.

Standards - a set of things used to measure if something is working or not.

Victim – a person who has had a crime committed against them.

Victims Bill – the way government will look at making things better for **victims** of crime.

Victims Code – this explains how **victims** should be supported by the police, **prosecutors**, the court service and other support services.

Victims Funding Strategy- the plan for making sure there is enough money to support all **victims** in the best way for them.

Victims funding Governance Board – a group of people who will make sure **victims** are treated equally and fairly.

Victim Support Services – people who help victims of crime.

Credits



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