



Ministry  
of Justice

Victim and Witness Policy Unit  
Victims and Vulnerability  
Directorate  
Ministry of Justice  
102 Petty France  
London SW1H 9AJ

Chief Executive Andy Marsh QPM  
College of Policing

15 August 2022

Cc: Harriet Wistrich  
Centre for Women's Justice

### Centre for Women's Justice super-complaint recommendation

I am writing in response to the recommendation made to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in the report following the Centre for Women's Justice super-complaint, published on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022. I would like to thank you for the report and recommendation for Ministry of Justice, which we accept.

#### Recommendation 3 (b)

*MoJ to ensure its guidance for independent domestic violence advisors includes guidance on the specific risks and vulnerabilities of police-perpetrated domestic abuse PPDA victims and the specific support and advice they may need in relation to both the criminal and misconduct aspects of the police response.*

Our landmark Victims Bill will improve support for victims. In particular, it will enhance the position of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs), which we know make victims almost 50% more likely to stay engaged with the criminal justice process.

It will require that the Secretary of State issue guidance on IDVAs and ISVAs. This will include provision about the role of advisors as well as how advisors, and others who have functions relating to victims should work together. It will also set out best practice and expectations regarding the functions of these roles, including supporting victims with specific needs.

In response to this recommendation, we will work closely with stakeholders to ensure the guidance addresses the specific issues regarding police-perpetrated domestic abuse that practitioners should be aware of. We will also ensure the guidance sets out specific support IDVAs could provide for these victims and consider how the guidance might reference police misconduct processes, including signposting to external resources, as appropriate.

More broadly, the MoJ are increasing funding for victim and witness support services to £192 million by 2024/25. This includes ringfenced funding to increase the number of ISVAs and IDVAs by 300 to over 1000 by 2024/25 - a 43% increase on the number of ISVAs and IDVAs over the next three years.

Yours sincerely,

Isla Scott  
Deputy Director  
Victim and Witness Policy Unit