



Ministry
of Justice

Dr Phillip Lee MP
Parliamentary Under-
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Dear Sarah

CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION SCHEME 2012

Thank you for your letter of 21 July 2017 addressed to the Justice Secretary raising concerns about the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme (the Scheme). I am responding as Minister for Victims.

Child sexual abuse is abhorrent, and it is right that victims can apply for taxpayer-funded compensation awards through the Scheme. The Justice Secretary and I are fully aware of the concerns raised about how rules of the Scheme work in relation to cases of child sexual abuse, as are the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) that administers the Scheme and the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.

The CICA has internal guidelines to assist decision-makers in applying the Scheme and its rules in individual cases. The guidelines are intended to make sure that controlling and abusive behaviour is taken into account when handling compensation applications for child sexual abuse, and CICA is urgently reviewing them to ensure they are robust enough to deal with cases where grooming may be a factor.

I hope this information is helpful and thank you for raising this important matter.

Yours as

DR PHILLIP LEE MP