



Ministry
of Justice

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The Right Honourable
David Gauke MP
Lord Chancellor & Secretary of
State for Justice

30 APR 2018

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25 April 2018

Dear Sarah

CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION

Thank you for your letter of 16 April which raises collective concerns of yourself and the other signatories about the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme (the Scheme) in relation to children and victims of sexual offences.

Dr Lee, the Victims' Minister and I are fully aware of concerns about how rules of the Scheme work in relation to applications from children and victims of sexual abuse, as is the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) that administers the Scheme. As mentioned in your letter, the CICA reviewed and amended its internal guidance after engaging victim support groups and charities with specialist knowledge (including those that are signatories to your letter). This was to ensure that every instance where grooming could be a factor is identified, and as you note CICA is also improving staff training to help get decisions right first time, every time.

Dr Lee and I are continuing to discuss what work we may be able to do to respond to concerns such as those set out in your letter. We will also carefully consider the interim report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse which is looking closely at the issue of compensation and redress for victims of child sexual abuse.

Supporting victims of crime is a priority for the Government and as you know we have made a commitment to publish a victims' strategy in summer 2018. We are currently considering both legislative and non-legislative options to give effect to the strategy.

Yours ever
David

RT HON DAVID GAUKE MP