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The Rt. Hon. Elizabeth Truss MP
Lord Chancellor, Secretary of State for Justice
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London, SW1H 9AJ

5 January 2017

Dear Lord Chancellor, Secretary of State

Re: Family Courts and Domestic Abuse Victim Review

I am writing as chair of a national domestic abuse charity which supports male victims of domestic abuse to welcome the urgent review that you have requested on how to prevent domestic abuse perpetrators from questioning their victims in the family courts.

In that regard, the charity is requesting that the review also fully takes into account the fact that any new measures would apply to male victims of domestic abuse in these circumstances. We would also request that the presentation and narrative for any new measures also recognises that they apply to male victims as well as female victims.

We have been particularly pleased with the Government's change of direction since the new Prime Minister took office regarding the recognition and inclusion of male victims in the public story on domestic abuse. We hope that this continues with any announcements and measures that the Government introduces in this area.

We also believe it is important that any measures are clear in delineating the legal status of those who are allowed to cross-examine witnesses. Some of the media reporting conflated those with actual convictions (including cautions and restraining orders) with those who had been accused, but not convicted. We ask that any measures are clear in setting out boundaries and also that Due Process is maintained.

Thank you for your time and consideration and we are looking forward to seeing the results of the review.

Yours sincerely

Mark Brooks

Mark Brooks
Chair of Trustees