

Debate Pack

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Sentencing for violence against women and girls

1	Background	3
1.1	Violence against women and girls	3
	The UN definition	3
	The Government's Strategy to tackle violence against women and girls	3
1.2	Sentencing in England and Wales	5
	Sentencing: maximum and minimum sentences	5
	The Sentencing Council and sentencing guidelines	6
	Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022	6
1.3	Domestic Homicide Sentencing Review	7
2	Parliamentary material	9
2.1	Statement	9
2.2	Debates	9
2.3	Parliamentary Questions	10
2.4	Committee material	17
3	Media	19

3.1	Press releases	19
3.2	Articles and blogs	19
4	Organisations and further reading	21

1 Background

1.1 Violence against women and girls

The UN definition

The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women defines violence against women as:

Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.¹

The Declaration states that violence against women encompasses (but is not limited to):

- Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation (FGM) and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;
- Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution;
- Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs.²

The Government's Strategy to tackle violence against women and girls

Between December 2020 and March 2021 the UK Government ran a '[call for evidence](#)' to collect views from those with lived experience of, or views on, crimes considered as violence against women and girls. The responses helped shape the Government's [Strategy to tackle violence against women and girls](#), which was published in November 2021.

The Strategy set out three ambitions:

¹ [UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women laid out in resolution 48/104](#) (PDF), A/RES/48/104, 23 February 1994, Article 1

² As above, Article 2

1. To increase support for victims and survivors, ensuring they have access to quality support.
2. To increase the number of perpetrators brought to justice, including an increase in the number of crimes reported to the police and increased victim engagement with the police and wider public service response.
3. To reduce the prevalence of violence against women and girls.

The Strategy states that “crimes of violence against women and girls are many and varied”, with examples including rape and other sexual offences, stalking, domestic abuse, female genital mutilation, forced marriage and intimate image abuse. The Strategy notes that “what these crimes share is that they disproportionately affect women and girls”, although it makes clear that “perpetrators and victims can be male or female”.³

The [Office for National Statistics](#) has collated a range of statistical material aimed at improving data on – and in turn understanding of – the crimes covered by the Strategy.⁴

Respondents to the ‘[call for evidence](#)’ that preceded the Strategy expressed concern about sentencing, which the Strategy summarised as follows:

When asked about their experiences of the criminal justice system, a number of respondents to the victim and survivor survey felt that they had not seen justice done due to a perception of lenient sentences. The need for an increase in the number of people prosecuted and convicted for crimes of violence against women and girls, as well as the need for harsher punishments or sentences was put forward by respondents to the public surveys. This shows that swifter and tougher justice is vital in not only preventing those perpetrators from continuing to offend but also increasing victim confidence in the criminal justice system. This in turn could result in these crimes becoming less hidden.⁵

The Strategy listed a number of Government measures aimed at improving the criminal justice response to violence against women and girls, including:

- improving the investigatory and prosecution stages of the criminal justice system’s response to rape cases through a range of actions set out in the Government’s [End-to-End Rape Review Report on Findings and Actions](#)
- asking the [Law Commission](#) to review how evidence is used in rape and serious sexual offences prosecutions

³ Home Office, [Strategy to tackle violence against women and girls](#) (PDF), 2021, p8.

⁴ Office for National Statistics, [Violence against women and girls: research update November 2022](#)

⁵ Home Office, [Strategy to tackle violence against women and girls](#) (PDF), 2021, p64

- passing the [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#), which included measures such as a new statutory definition of domestic abuse and new offences of non-fatal strangulation and threatening to share intimate images
- plans to [end the halfway release](#) of offenders sentenced to between four and seven years in prison for serious violent and sexual offences and to strengthen the regime for [managing registered sex offenders](#) and those who pose a risk of sexual harm (now enacted in the [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022](#), discussed below).

1.2

Sentencing in England and Wales

Sentencing: maximum and minimum sentences

The maximum sentence available for a criminal offence is, in most instances, set out in legislation (although sentences for some offences are governed by the common law). Examples of maximum sentences for offences relevant to violence against women and girls include:

- rape, maximum sentence of life imprisonment ([Sexual Offences Act 2003, s1](#))
- controlling or coercive behaviour, maximum sentence of five years imprisonment ([Serious Crime Act 2015, s76](#))
- stalking involving fear of violence or serious alarm or distress, maximum sentence of ten years ([Protection from Harassment Act 1997, s4A](#)).

Within the maximum available, either in legislation or at common law, it is for the sentencing court to decide on the appropriate sentence in each particular case.

In a few instances, legislation also provides for a mandatory custodial sentence, although this is relatively uncommon in this jurisdiction. One example is murder, which carries a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment [Murder \(Abolition of Death Penalty\) Act 1965, s1](#)). A number of other offences carry mandatory minimum custodial sentences, but these relate to burglary, drugs, firearms and offensive weapons offences rather than to violence against women and girls.⁶

Labour has called for mandatory minimum sentences to be introduced for rape and stalking, arguing that this would better reflect the seriousness of these crimes.⁷ The Opposition attempted to amend the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill to include mandatory minimum custodial

⁶ See the Crown Prosecution Service legal guidance [Sentencing – Overview, General Principles and Mandatory Custodial Sentences](#), last updated July 2022, for an overview

⁷ Labour, [Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Green Paper](#) (PDF), May 2021, pp6-7

sentences of seven years for rape and five months for stalking involving fear of violence or serious alarm or distress. However, the Government resisted these on the basis that it was already taking a range of legislative and non-legislative actions to address sentencing and length of time served in prison in rape and stalking cases. The amendments were unsuccessful.⁸

The Sentencing Council and sentencing guidelines

The independent [Sentencing Council](#) issues guidelines on sentencing for most offences dealt with by the courts (for example, [rape](#)) and overarching guidelines that deal with specific sentencing topics (such as [sentencing children and young people](#)). These guidelines set out the process judges and magistrates should follow and the factors they should consider when determining the appropriate sentence in a particular case. A sentencing court is required by legislation⁹ to follow relevant guidelines unless it is in the interests of justice not to do so. The primary purpose of the guidelines is to promote a more consistent approach to sentencing across courts in England and Wales.

The Council's [overarching guideline on domestic abuse](#) identifies the principles relevant to sentencing cases involving domestic abuse. The guideline contains a non-exhaustive list of aggravating and mitigating factors that are of particular relevance to offences committed in a domestic context. It is not limited to violence against women and girls. It explains why domestic abuse offences are regarded as particularly serious referring to the violation of trust and security and the possibility of a continuing threat to the victim's safety.

Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022

The Government, when asked about the severity of sentencing for rape and murder,¹⁰ has pointed to changes made recently in the [Police, Crime, Sentencing, and Courts Act 2022](#) (PCSC Act).

Prisoner release

The PCSC Act made changes to the point at which prisoners serving sentences for certain violent and sexual offences are released. As a result, certain prisoners will spend a greater proportion of their sentence in prison. The changes included moving the automatic release point for offenders sentenced to between four and seven years for certain sexual and violent offences to be the two thirds point of their sentence (rather than the halfway point).¹¹

⁸ See [Commons Library briefing paper 9273 Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill: Progress of the Bill](#), 22 April 2022, pp44-45 for an overview of the debate

⁹ Section 59 of the Sentencing Act 2020

¹⁰ [UIN 123942](#) [Homicide and Rape: Sentencing], 23 January 2023

¹¹ [Section 130](#) of the PCSC Act 2022 inserted section 244ZA inserted into the Criminal Justice Act 2003

The PCSC Act also introduced a power to enable the Secretary of State to refer to the Parole Board any prisoner serving a standard determinate (fixed) sentence who would normally be released automatically, but who is deemed by the Secretary of State to present a significant risk of serious harm to the public by committing murder or certain ‘specified’ offences (mainly of a violent, sexual or terrorist nature).¹² Once referred the prisoner will not be released until the Parole Board is satisfied that it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the prisoner should be confined.

Murder sentencing

The PCSC Act made changes to sentencing for murder. Murder carries a mandatory life sentence. In the most serious cases of murder the courts can impose a whole life order. These orders are rare and mean that the offender will spend the rest of their lives in prison apart from in exceptional cases of compassionate release. For all other cases, the judge sets a minimum term that must be served in prison, sometimes called the tariff. At the end of this term the prisoner can apply to the Parole Board for release. The Parole Board will only allow release if it is satisfied that detention is no longer required for the protection of the public.

When setting the minimum term or deciding whether to impose a whole life order for murder, the court must have regard to the statutory starting points for different types of murder set out in [Schedule 21](#) of the Sentencing Act 2020. The judge in each case will identify the appropriate starting point in Schedule 21 and consider the aggravating and mitigating factors in the case in order to determine the appropriate minimum term which may be of any length, whatever the starting point. The PCSC Act 2022 made the starting point for the premeditated murder of a child a whole life order and made whole life orders available for those aged over 18 and under 21 in exceptional circumstances.¹³ It also changed the starting points for murders committed by children.¹⁴

1.3

Domestic Homicide Sentencing Review

On 5 March 2021 the Victims’ Commissioner and Domestic Abuse Commissioner wrote a [joint letter](#) to the Home Secretary, Lord Chancellor and Attorney General calling for (among other things) a review of sentencing in domestic homicide cases. The Commissioners argued that “some sentences received by men who kill their female partners or ex-partners do not reflect the seriousness of domestic abuse, nor do they reflect the fact that these homicides often follow a period of prolonged abuse”, while on the other hand “the sentences received by women who kill their partners in self-defence, or

¹² [Section 132](#) PCSC Act 2022 inserted section 244ZB into the Criminal Justice Act 2003

¹³ [Section 126](#) and [section 127](#) PCSC Act 2022

¹⁴ [Section 127](#) PCSC Act 2022

after a long period of abuse” could appear “disproportionate”, particularly in cases where the woman had used a weapon.

They highlighted the cases of [Anthony Williams](#), sentenced to five years for manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility for strangling his wife, and [Sally Challen](#), sentenced to nine years and four months (time already served) for manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility after killing her abusive husband with a hammer (she was originally convicted of murder in 2011 but was released in 2019 after her murder conviction as quashed and the prosecution instead accepted a guilty plea to manslaughter).

The Review was initiated by the then Justice Secretary Robert Buckland in March 2021, as reported on the [Victims Commissioner website](#). In September 2021 the [Government appointed Clare Wade QC](#) to conduct the Review. [Terms of reference](#) were subsequently published in November 2021, which set out the issues the Review was due to examine. These include:

- the statutory starting points for minimum terms and the statutory aggravating and mitigating factors set out in Schedule 21 of the Sentencing Act 2020
- the approach to sentencing where a weapon is involved
- the use of current defences to charges of murder when used by domestic abuse victims who kill their abuser
- the way in which the Definitive Sentencing Guidelines for Manslaughter are being applied in cases of domestic homicide

In March 2022 the Government published its [Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan \(CP 639\)](#) (PDF), which included the following statement (on p45):

Clare Wade QC is expected to make recommendations in her report which will conclude the Domestic Homicide Sentencing Review. The government will carefully consider these and decide whether changes should be made to the sentencing framework so the law in this area responds better to cases of domestic homicide.

As of 30 January 2023, the outcome of the review has still not been published. The most recent update from the Government came in response to a [debate on the review in November 2022](#). The Minister, Mike Freer, confirmed that Ministers had received the report in June 2022 and were in the process of considering its recommendations. He said Parliament would be updated “in due course with more detail on the review, its recommendations and how the Government will respond to them”. A [PQ](#) (UIN 132579) tabled on 25 January 2023 asking the Government when it expects to publish the Government’s response to the review has not yet been answered.

2 Parliamentary material

2.1 Statement

[Online Safety Bill - Update](#)

29 Nov 2022 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS397

[Work of the Home Office](#)

19 Nov 2022 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS467

[Ratification of the Istanbul Convention](#)

17 May 2022 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS34

[Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan](#)

30 Mar 2022 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS743

[Protecting the Public and Justice for Victims](#)

07 Sep 2021 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS266

2.2 Debates

[Probation Service: Chief Inspector's Reviews into Serious Further Offences](#) – HC Deb 24 Jan 2023, 726 cc886-896

[Rape and Sexual Violence](#) – HC Deb 08 Mar 2022, 710 cc271-297

[Domestic Homicide Sentencing Review](#) – HC Deb 30 Nov 2022, 723 cc387-398WH

2.3

Parliamentary Questions

Homicide and Rape: Sentencing

Asked by: Shannon, Jim

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if he will make an assessment of the adequacy of sentencing guidelines for (a) rape and (b) murder; and what steps he is taking to ensure that these crimes receive the most severe punishments.

Answering member: Edward Argar | Department: Ministry of Justice

The independent Sentencing Council is responsible for the production and revision of sentencing guidelines, which the courts must follow, unless it would be contrary to the interest of justice. The Council also undertakes evaluation of the guidelines to ensure they are operating as intended.

Rape carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, and the average custodial sentence length for adults (aged 21 and older) increased from 99.5 months in 2010, to 114.3 months in 2021. The sentencing guidelines are clear that offences which involve the greatest harm and culpability can expect to attract the toughest sentences, for example where there has been a significant degree of planning or an abuse of trust.

Murder convictions attract a mandatory life sentence. Schedule 21 of the Sentencing Code sets out statutory guidance to be applied by the independent courts when setting the minimum term of imprisonment, at which point they may be considered for release on licence by the Parole Board.

The Government regularly reviews Schedule 21 and has expanded the list of whole life order (WLO) starting points through the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 to include the premediated murder of a child and enabled judges to impose a WLO on those aged 18-20 in exceptional circumstances.

Furthermore, in 2021 the Government commissioned an independent expert, Clare Wade KC, to undertake a review of domestic homicide sentencing. The review was delivered to the department in June 2022 and prior to publication the Government is carefully considering its recommendations and next steps.

23 Jan 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 123942

Date tabled: 16 Jan 2023 | **Date for answer:** 18 Jan 2023 | **Date answered:** 23 Jan 2023

Gender Based Violence

Asked by: De Cordova, Marsha

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent steps her Department has taken to tackle violence against women and girls.

Answering member: Sarah Dines | **Department:** Home Office

Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is a government priority. VAWG is an unacceptable, preventable issue which blights the lives of millions.

We have made significant progress since we published the Tackling VAWG Strategy in July 2021 and the complementary Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan in March 2022, including action to tackle the causes of these crimes. This includes supporting the introduction of a new full-time National Policing Lead for VAWG, DCC Maggie Blyth, to help strengthen the police response as well as ratifying the Istanbul Convention on 21 July 2022.

The Government recently announced that we are supporting the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP's Protection from Sex-Based Harassment in Public Bill, which would make public sexual harassment a specific offence. It provides that if someone commits an offence under existing section 4A of the Public Order Act 1986 (intentionally causing harassment, alarm or distress) and did so because of the victim's sex, then they could obtain a higher sentence.

Last year we launched our national communications campaign, 'Enough', to challenge the harmful behaviours that exist within wider society, educate young people about healthy relationships and consent, and ensure victims can recognise abuse and receive support. Phase two of the campaign started on 25 October.

In addition, this year the government has launched the ongoing VAWG Support and Specialist Service Fund and the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Intervention Fund. The former sees the Ministry of Justice and Home Office committing up to £8.4 million of funding for specialised victims' support services over two years. The latter seeks

to award grant funding of up to £36 million over two years to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to deliver interventions for domestic abuse and stalking perpetrators.

New duties on Tier 1 local authorities in England, included in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 came into force on 1st October 2021, ensuring victims and their children across England can access the right support in safe accommodation when they need it. On 12 December 2022 we announced a further two years of government funding - £127.3 million and £129.7 million for the delivery of these duties in 2023/24 and 2024/25.

30 Jan 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 130032

Date tabled: 23 Jan 2023 | **Date for answer:** 25 Jan 2023 | **Date answered:** 30 Jan 2023

Domestic Abuse: Homicide

Asked by: McMorris, Anna

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the timetable is for the publication of the outcome of the Domestic homicide sentencing review.

Answering member: James Cartlidge | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

The first stage of the review, an analysis of data and relevant sentencing remarks for cases of domestic homicide tried between 2018-2020, has already been completed. Clare Wade QC, the independent expert who is conducting the second and final stage of the review, is expected to produce her report, including potential options for reform, for the Secretary of State before the end of the year.

Her report, together with the findings of the initial case review, will be published shortly thereafter.

The Terms of Reference for the Domestic Homicide Sentencing Review have now been published and can be accessed here: [Guidance overview: Domestic Homicide Sentencing Review: Terms of Reference - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114444/guidance-overview-domestic-homicide-sentencing-review-terms-of-reference-2022.pdf)

25 Nov 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 79451

Date tabled: 22 Nov 2021 | **Date for answer:** 25 Nov 2021 | **Date answered:** 25 Nov 2021

[Domestic Abuse: Homicide](#)

Asked by: Maclean, Rachel

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, when he plans to publish the Government's response to the Domestic Homicide Sentencing Review.

Answering member: Edward Argar | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

Last year the government commissioned an independent expert, Clare Wade KC, to undertake a review of domestic homicide sentencing. The Terms of Reference stated that the review would be submitted to the Secretary of State for Justice by the end of 2021 and that we would then consider the review and its recommendations before determining whether further consultation is needed or publishing the report.

The independent reviewer required more time than anticipated to complete the review and it was delivered to the department in June this year. The Review examines a number of important and complex issues. Therefore prior to publication of the review and response, the government is carefully considering its recommendations and next steps.

This government is fully committed to ensuring that the sentencing framework responds appropriately to cases of domestic homicide and that sentences reflect the severity of these crimes.

21 Nov 2022 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 85002

Date tabled: 11 Nov 2022 | **Date for answer:** 15 Nov 2022 | **Date answered:** 21 Nov 2022

[Domestic Abuse: Homicide](#)

Asked by: The Lord Bishop of Gloucester

To ask Her Majesty's Government what organisations will be consulted for the Lord Chancellor's review of sentencing in domestic homicide cases.

Answering member: Lord Wolfson of Tredegar | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

The Lord Chancellor committed to reviewing sentencing in cases of domestic homicide earlier this year and I am pleased that the first stage of this review, an analysis of data, sentencing remarks and outcomes of relevant domestic homicide cases from the past two years, is well underway. We are hopeful that the review will be complete by the end of the year.

The first stage of the review is focused on achieving an improved understanding of current sentencing practice, before moving to a second stage which will consider whether any changes to the law are necessary, and if so, what those changes should be. This initial stage will examine how the sentencing legislation and guidelines have been applied, including in cases where a weapon is and is not taken to the scene, and where victims of domestic abuse have killed their abuser. It will also consider how aggravating and mitigating circumstances are taken into account, the use of current defences to charges of murder and manslaughter, and whether there appear to be gender disparities in case outcomes and how the guidelines are being applied.

Following this initial stage, the Lord Chancellor intends to appoint an independent expert, with the relevant experience and knowledge in this field, to oversee a more detailed phase of consideration and consultation. Their role will be to consider the findings of the initial case review and data analysis and use that as the basis for identifying potential areas for reform and delivering recommendations for change to the Lord Chancellor.

Once the independent expert is in place, we will work with them to finalise the scope and approach for this second phase of the Review, including issues of consultation. Engagement with key stakeholders will be critical and the Lord Chancellor is keen that they have the opportunity to provide their input in helping shape the recommendations. He has already met with both the Victims Commissioner and Domestic Abuse Commissioner to discuss the review as a first step.

21 Jul 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Lords | HL1806

Date tabled: 07 Jul 2021 | **Date for answer:** 21 Jul 2021 | **Date answered:** 21 Jul 2021

Engagements

Asked by: Sam Tarry (Ilford South) (Lab)

A few short weeks ago, Zara Aleena was walking home through Ilford. She was dragged off the street and brutally murdered. Zara's family made a touching tribute to her life. They said:

“She was authentic and refused to try and impress anyone, but she impressed us. She was the rock of our family.”

Last week, on 8 July, another woman was stabbed in St Johns Road, just yards from my family's church that I have attended for 15 years, so I know the area like the back of my hand. Women in Ilford should not have to police themselves or impose curfews on their behaviour when they just want to go about their daily business. Will the Prime Minister commit to a greater allocation of policing funding targeted on specialist knife crime into Ilford and across all that part of north-east London? In addition, what measures will the Government take that will make a difference to the lives of women? Will they toughen sentences for rape, stalking and domestic violence and put in place proper police support to end the epidemic of violence in this country against women and girls?

Answered by: The Prime Minister | **Department:** Prime Minister

I thank you for your guidance, Mr Speaker. I think we can safely say how much we sympathise with the victim and her family. Knife crime is a scourge, and I believe there are many different solutions, but one of them unquestionably is allowing the police to do more stop and search and making sure we have more police out on the street. That is why we have made the massive investments we have, and I hope that those investments will continue. I am sure that they will.

Rape and serious sexual offences—offences particularly against women—are a matter that is incredibly important to the whole House, and they are something we have worked on very hard over the past three years. We have done everything we can; not only have we introduced more streetlights, but we have invested more in independent sexual violence advisers and domestic violence advisers and all the people we need to give victims the confidence they need to get cases to trial, which is such a problem. In addition to putting more police out on the streets and specialist units to tackle—[Interruption.] Yes, we have. We have also introduced tougher sentences for rape and serious sexual violence. I have to say I am amazed that it is still

the case that the party of the Leader of the Opposition voted against those tougher sentences. That was a great mistake, and I think they should take it back.

13 Jul 2022 | Prime Minister's questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | 718 cc331-2

Date answered: 13 Jul 2022

Crimes of Violence: Females

Asked by: Shannon, Jim

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of extending prison sentences for perpetrators of violence against women and girls.

Answering member: Kit Malthouse | **Department:** Ministry of Justice

Sentencing is entirely a matter for our independent courts, taking into account all the circumstances of each case.

In April 2020, the Government changed the law to prevent the automatic release at the halfway point of offenders given a standard determinate sentence of 7 years or more for a serious violent or sexual offence with a maximum penalty of life, such as rape. Instead, such offenders will be released at the two-thirds point of the sentence. Provisions in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill extend this to offenders serving sentences of 4 years or more for certain violent and sexual offences. This will ensure victims and the public are protected for longer.

In July 2021, the Government published its Violence against Women and Girls Strategy, with a Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan published on 30 March 2022, which will help drive a step-change in the response to these crimes and build on the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

06 Apr 2022 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 149258

Date tabled: 29 Mar 2022 | **Date for answer:** 31 Mar 2022 | **Date answered:** 06 Apr 2022

[Hate Crime: Females](#)

Asked by: Pollard, Luke

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has plans to classify attacks based on incel misogyny as hate crimes triggering longer sentences.

Answering member: Rachel Maclean | **Department:** Home Office

The Law Commission's review of hate crime laws was commissioned by the Government in 2018. This review examined the coverage and approach of existing hate crime legislation, including consideration of whether other protective characteristics, such as sex and age, should be included. The Law Commission published its final recommendations on 7 December.

We are grateful to the Law Commission for the detailed consideration it has given to its review.

The Government will consider its proposals carefully and respond to the recommendations in due course.

15 Dec 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 89670

Date tabled: 08 Dec 2021 | **Date for answer:** 10 Dec 2021 | **Date answered:** 15 Dec 2021

2.4

Committee material

Inquiry: [Public opinion and understanding of sentencing](#) - Justice Committee - Oral and written evidence transcripts

Inquiry: [Violence against women and girls](#) - Home Affairs Committee - Oral and written evidence transcripts

Inquiry: [Investigation and prosecution of rape](#) - Home Affairs Committee - Oral and written evidence transcripts

Inquiry: [So-called honour-based abuse](#) - Women and Equalities Committee - Oral and written evidence transcripts

Inquiry: [Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls](#) – Women and Equalities Committee - Written evidence transcripts

3 Media

3.1 Press releases

[Women's Aid responds: Zara Aleena's murderer sentenced to life imprisonment](#)

Women's Aid

14 December 2022

3.2 Articles and blogs

[Rapist who threatened to kill victim's date has sentence reviewed](#)

Guardian

26 January 2023

[Ellie Gould: Mother of murdered teenager calls for sentencing change](#)

BBC News

02 December 2022

['I'll never get those years back': 10 years after stalking was made illegal, victims feel abandoned by the law](#)

Independent

25 November 2022

[Victim stalked for almost 20 years calls sentence 'an insult'](#)

BBC

02 November 2022

[Mum of woman murdered by jealous ex renews fight for tougher sentences](#)

ITV

14 November 2022

[Mayor calls for urgent action over “shocking disparity” in murder sentencing](#)

West Yorkshire Combined Authority

3rd November 2022

[Lenient sentences in domestic abuse cases send ‘a dangerous message’, warns Women’s Aid](#)

Police Professional

23 March 2022

[Angel Lynn: Parents of kidnap victim demand longer sentence](#)

Times

29 January 2022

[Domestic abuse victims need strong support structures, not empty victories](#)

Times

13 January 2022

4

Organisations and further reading

House of Commons Library

[Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill: Progress of the Bill](#)

22 Apr 2022 | Briefing papers on bills | CBP-9273

[Homicide Statistics](#)

25 May 2021 | Commons Briefing papers | CBP-8224

Government department, agencies and other public bodies

HM Inspectorate of Probation, [Independent Serious Further Offence review of Jordan McSweeney](#), 24 January 2023

HM Inspectorate of Probation, [Independent Serious Further Offence review of Damien Bendall](#), 17 January 2023

Suzy Lamplugh Trust, [Super-complaint on the police response to stalking](#), 25 November 2022

National Police Chiefs' Council, [Police Chiefs respond to Stalking Super-complaint](#), 25 November 2022

End Violence Against Women Coalition, [Violence Against Women and Girls Snapshot Report 2021-22](#), 03 March 2022

Ministry of Justice, [Guidance overview: Domestic Homicide Sentencing Review: Terms of Reference](#), 02 November 2021

Home Office, [Tackling violence against women and girls strategy](#), 21 July 2021

Ministry of Justice, [End-to-End Rape Review Report on Findings and Actions](#), 18 June 2021

Sentencing Council, [Overarching Principles: Domestic Abuse](#), 24 May 2018

Sentencing Council, [Sentencing Council publishes new guideline on domestic abuse](#), 22 February 2018

Centre for Women's Justice, [New Report From Centre For Women's Justice Exposes How Victims Of Violence Against Women And Girls Are Unfairly Criminalised](#), 29 March 2022

Centre for Women's Justice, [Double Standard: Ending the unjust criminalisation of victims of violence against women and girls](#), 28 March 2022

Rape Crisis, [Operation Soteria Bluestone Year 1 report released](#), 16 December 2022

[Women's Aid](#)

[The Suzy Lamplugh Trust](#)

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