



Home Office

Jess Phillips MP
Minister for Safeguarding and
Violence Against Women and Girls

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Councillor Carole Pattison
Civic Centre, 3 High Street
Huddersfield
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14 January 2026

Dear Carole,

Thank you for your letter of 18 December to the Home Secretary on Kirklees Council's local response to tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). I am replying as the Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls.

We align with the Council's position that VAWG is a significant issue on a local, regional and national level. Tackling VAWG is a top priority for this Government, and we are treating it as the national emergency it is. Our mission is to halve levels of these crimes in a decade, using every lever available to us. On 18 December 2025, we published our transformative cross-government strategy, setting out the strategic direction and concrete actions we will take to prevent violence and abuse, pursue perpetrators, and support victims. You can find the strategy "Freedom from Violence and Abuse: a cross-government strategy to build a safer society for women and girls" here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/freedom-from-violence-and-abuse-a-cross-government-strategy>.

We welcome the work your council is doing to tackle these crimes and behaviours at a local level. The Strategy recognises we must take a whole system approach to tackling VAWG to halve it in a decade, including innovation at a local level.

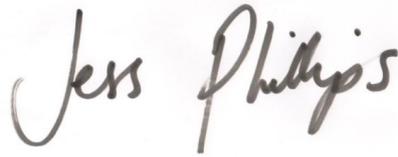
In your letter you asked whether we would be appointing a Royal Commission into male violence against women, focused on gathering evidence and making binding cross-government recommendations that address systemic issues. Although I appreciate your suggestion, we are confident that the VAWG Strategy and accompanying Action Plan address many of the areas of concern without needing a new Commission.

Our approach is informed by the best available evidence, with the Strategy underpinned by evidence of 'what works' to address VAWG and a Theory of Change. The VAWG Strategy is a ten-year adaptive plan, designed to evolve in response to changing contexts. We will continue to be informed by new and emerging evidence and analysis of what is working.

We are taking a truly cross-government approach to tackling VAWG, placing a real focus on prevention and early intervention to prevent VAWG from happening in the first place and stopping harmful behaviours early. This is alongside a robust, proactive response to pursuing perpetrators and tailored support for victims to help them move on and rebuild their lives.

Thank you for your engagement and commitment to this vital issue. The work you are doing at a local level is invaluable and I look forward to hearing from you in the future on the work you have committed to.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jess Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jess Phillips MP
Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls