



Home Office

Home Secretary

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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

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Dear Louisa,

I am writing to extend my sincere gratitude for your participation in the Prime Minister's recent Hidden Harms Virtual Summit held on Thursday 21 May.

Protecting children and vulnerable people from abhorrent crimes, such as domestic abuse, child sexual abuse, sexual violence and modern slavery, is a critical priority for the Government, and as we know the Coronavirus pandemic and associated lockdown restrictions have placed some individuals at an even greater risk of harm.

Last month's summit provided an invaluable opportunity to discuss how we can build on the innovative work being undertaken to safeguard vulnerable people, and the collective action we must now take over the coming weeks and months to support victims and survivors and root out these crimes for good.

We heard from the Prime Minister, survivors of hidden harms, Commissioners and representatives from law enforcement, the criminal justice system, victims' charities, local government and the private sector, and I am hugely grateful for the insight and experience shared. I was delighted that the Government was able to announce a range of additional investments and measures to further strengthen our response to hidden harms, but I am acutely conscious that we have much more to do.

In the Summit's policing breakout session, I was struck by the dedication with which partners have worked to protect the most vulnerable in our society and tackle offending during these unprecedented times. It was encouraging to hear excellent examples of collaboration across services, and brilliant proactive policing work taking place around the country.

It is now imperative that we deliver on these discussions through firm and meaningful action, and it is a personal priority of mine to work with you in pursuit of this. A Hidden Harms Virtual Summit Report has now been published and can be accessed [here](#). This sets out immediate actions that the

Government will undertake, along with valuable reflections from the Commissioners in attendance. These actions will support longer-term strategies, forthcoming legislation and sustained funding strategies needed to tackle hidden harms, and I would greatly welcome your continued support and insights to effectively drive forward this agenda. I would also invite you to share this document widely with your stakeholders.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your ongoing commitment to rid our society of these terrible crimes.

I look forward to our continued collaboration.

*With our good wishes*  


**Rt Hon Priti Patel MP**