Your reference: MO5/0219

Dear Mr. Murphy,

I am writing about your recent correspondence to the Minister for Justice & Equality, Mr Charlie Flanagan T.D. concerning the motion of 11th February The Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

The Minister is acutely aware of the need to protect people from serious sexual abuse in our society. The Government is firmly committed to such aims, and to ensuring that victims of serious sexual abuse are treated with the utmost compassion and dignity.

To that end, the Minister announced in 2018 the review of the investigation and prosecution of sexual offence trials in this jurisdiction. The review is being completed by a working group chaired by Professor Tom O'Malley B.L., one of Ireland's foremost legal experts in this area.

The Terms of Reference for the review can be found at <http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&d=iMO03GWdtiFOgkZ1b0Eiugl9Q_o-pZvK-GyMd2lU3w&s=344&u=http%3a%2f%2fwww%2ejustice%2eie>

The work of the review group is ongoing. To date, consultations have taken place with a wide number of stakeholders including many victim support groups. Submissions received in relation to the review have also been considered.

It is anticipated that the review will be completed in the coming months.

While the outcome of the review cannot be pre-empted, any measures or recommendations to ensure further protections for victims of sexual abuse will be considered by the Government.

Yours sincerely,

Conor Cleary

Private Secretary to the

Minister for Justice and Equality

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