

Major step towards a victims' law as consultation is launched

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Landmark reforms will protect victims in the criminal justice system

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Victims of crime will be better heard, served and protected under wide-ranging reforms set out by the government on 9 December 2021 with a major step towards a victims' law.

Justice Secretary Dominic Raab set out plans for a first ever victims' law that would guarantee greater consultation with victims during the criminal justice process to ensure their voices are properly heard, working together with the police, CPS and courts service to appropriately account for the service they provide to victims.

The reforms were welcomed by Matthew Barber, police and crime commissioner (PCC) for Thames Valley.

I welcome today's announcement of reforms to better protect and support victims of crime. All too often within the criminal justice system victims feel like their needs and rights are neglected. The range of proposals outlined, which create greater transparency and set out clear expectations and accountability for justice agencies, will I hope give victims a greater voice.

Any proposals aimed at increasing the number of prosecutions for rape and sexual violence reaching court, I also strongly welcome. As chairman of Thames Valley's Criminal Justice Board, the proposed scorecards will help me to scrutinise the work of other agencies and hold all partners to account for delivering on behalf of victims.

PCC Matthew Barber, Thames Valley Police

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