



Ministry of
JUSTICE

**The Right Honourable
Kenneth Clarke QC MP**
Lord Chancellor and
Secretary of State for Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

T 020 3334 3555
F 020 3334 3669
E general.queries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

www.justice.gov.uk

Louise Casey CB
Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

12 October 2011

Dear Louise,

Thank you for your letter of 12 October 2011. I wanted to take this opportunity of thanking you for the work you have undertaken since your appointment as Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses last year.

The Government is determined to listen to victims of crime and respond to their needs. You have been a powerful advocate for victims and have helped ensure that their voices are heard. You have done so with determination, passion and integrity.

In your letter you draw attention, in particular, to your report on the needs of those bereaved by homicide. Your report demonstrated the enormous impact a homicide and the subsequent criminal justice process can have on families, and it showed how, despite the progress that has been made over the years, too many families are still let down by the system. We must and we will put that right.

Later this year, as you know, I expect to consult on the proposals in my victims' strategy which follows the review of victims' services, support and compensation I commissioned a year ago. I am grateful for the advice you have given as we have progressed this work and hope you will feel able to support our proposals when we launch the consultation.

I understand that before you take up your new post at the beginning of November you will let me have a report reflecting on your work over the last 18 months. I look forward to receiving it. I would welcome your thoughts on the future of the role of Victims' Commissioner following your experiences and the best way of ensuring that (as you neatly put it in your letter) the voice of victims is heard at the criminal justice system table.

I wish you every success in your important new role.

KENNETH CLARKE