



Home Office

Home Secretary

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All MPs
House of Commons
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18th January 2021

Dear Colleague,

CODEWORD SCHEME FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE AND PRE-CHARGE BAIL REFORMS

As Home Secretary, it is my priority to deliver justice for victims and restore confidence in our criminal justice system.

On 14 January we launched a new domestic abuse codeword scheme: **'Ask for ANI'**, where victims will be able to access support through thousands of pharmacies across the UK. With a discreet signal to a trained pharmacist, asking for **'ANI'** ("Action Needed Immediately"), a victim will be provided with a safe space and taken through support available to them – whether that is a call to the police, or domestic abuse helpline services. This scheme will initially be available in the 2,300 Boots pharmacies as well as almost 300 independent community pharmacies across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Colleagues can find training materials and further information on Ask for ANI [here](#). If colleagues have specific questions regarding the new scheme, please email: AskforANI@homeoffice.gov.uk

Alongside this vital support to victims, we are also strengthening arrangements to help tackle perpetrators of abuse. Reforms to the pre-charge bail system, also announced on 14 January, will enable police in England and Wales to impose strict conditions on more suspects in high-harm cases – including most cases of domestic abuse and sexual violence - where there are real risks to victims, witnesses, and the public. We will be bringing forward a full package of reforms to address perpetrators' behavior, named **'Kay's Law'** in memory of Kay Richardson, who was murdered by her ex-partner following his release under investigation, despite evidence of previous domestic abuse.

Taken together, the introduction of 'Ask for ANI' and our pre-charge bail reforms will help us create a safer, more secure UK throughout and long after the pandemic.

With our good wishes

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP