



Ministry  
of Justice

The Right Honourable  
**Dominic Raab MP**  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Lord Chancellor & Secretary  
of State for Justice

Sir Nicholas Green  
52 Queen Anne's Gate  
London  
SW1H 9AG

**MoJ ref:** 100815

25 November 2022

By email: [Nicholas.Green@lawcommission.gov.uk](mailto:Nicholas.Green@lawcommission.gov.uk)

Dear Sir Nicholas,

### **INTIMATE IMAGE ABUSE**

The Government is today announcing its intention to legislate on intimate image abuse when Parliamentary time allows. My aim is to bring some of these measures forward earlier, adding them to the Online Safety Bill.

Your detailed analysis and research have provided the evidence needed by the Government to legislate in this area which will help in ensuring that victims of this type of harm are effectively protected by the law. Sadly, this type of harm disproportionately affects women and girls and these new offences will therefore be key in progressing the Government's commitment to tackle violence against women and girls. Please do pass on my sincere thanks to Professor Penney Lewis and her team at the Law Commission too for all their hard work on this matter.

My intention is for a new package of criminal offences to be drafted, based on those recommended in your 'Taking, Making and Sharing of Intimate Images Without Consent' report, published in July this year. In bringing forward these measures, will of necessity mean the repeal and replacement of existing offences and this will be complex given their interrelation. My officials continue to work on your recommendations and develop the policy further.

In addition to this medium-term plan, I intend to take the opportunity of the Online Safety Bill to introduce some changes earlier, enabling the law to offer additional protection to victims sooner rather than later. I will therefore be tabling Government amendments to the Online Safety Bill during the Lords stages of the Bill relating to the sending of intimate images, including issues around the perpetrator's intent and the type of images that are captured.

It is essential that we have in place appropriate legislation which effectively captures the behaviour concerned. In legislating to create a package of offences, I aim to ensure that the law is robust in tackling this behaviour, ensuring that victims have additional protection they deserve and the confidence they need in the law when coming forward to report such abuse.

Please treat this as our interim response; we will publish a full response in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dominic Raab". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

**RT HON DOMINIC RAAB MP**