

Dame Vera Baird QC
Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales

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22 July 2019

Rt Hon John Bercow MP
Speaker of the House of Commons
Palace of Westminster
London
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Dear Mr Bercow

**COMMEMORATION OF THE WESTMINSTER BRIDGE ATTACK
22 MARCH 2017**

I understand you have been approached by survivors and victims, bereaved as a result of the terror attack that took place on Westminster Bridge and in New Palace Yard on the 22nd March 2017. They have asked that you support their request for an official commemoration of the Westminster attack to take place on the date marking the third anniversary in March of 2020.

As Victims' Commissioner, I would like to add my support to their request. Understandably, the attack has had a deep and profound impact on the lives of the victims and their families. Moreover, given that it took place outside and in the confines of Parliament, I also believe it shocked the whole country.

A commemoration offers an opportunity to remember those who so tragically lost their lives as well as to recognise the pain and suffering of those who survived and those who have been left bereaved. Public recognition can help these victims in their struggle to come to terms with their loss and rebuild their lives.

I also agree with those who say that such an event would offer a focus to "our nation's collective solidarity in the face of terror".

I do hope their request will be fully and sympathetically considered.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V Baird', written in a cursive style.

Dame Vera Baird QC
Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales