

# Domestic abusers barred from cross-examining victims in family and civil courts

Press release

Victims of domestic abuse can be spared from being cross-examined by their alleged attackers in family and civil courts under measures coming into force today (21 July 2022).



- victims spared trauma of being quizzed by abusers in court
- legal professionals to conduct cross-examinations in domestic abuse cases
- part of government's landmark Domestic Abuse Act to transform the response to this crime

It follows concerns that perpetrators were using the process as a means of extending their abuse, and victims were being retraumatised by their experiences in court.

The change is part of the government's landmark Domestic Abuse Act (2021). It places a legal bar on parties cross-examining each other where there is evidence of abuse.

Instead, this will be done by a court-appointed legal professional to ensure that justice continues to be done fairly for both sides. Hundreds of lawyers have already signed up to fulfil this important role.

Justice Minister, Tom Pursglove MP said:

Going to court about family issues can be a traumatic experience, so victims of domestic abuse shouldn't face the extra torment of being cross-examined by their abuser.

This is already banned in criminal trials and from today it will be

banned in family and civil courts too – to protect victims, ease the stress and make sure they get a fair hearing.

The change forms part of government efforts to reduce the trauma of appearing in court and ensure that victims are better supported. This includes introducing special measures in family and civil courts, such as screens and separate entrances, to minimise stress and help witnesses to give their best evidence.

The ban will only be applied in cases where there is specified evidence of domestic abuse between those involved, or there is a conviction or protective injunction in place between the parties.

Earlier this year, the government published a draft Victims Bill which seeks to amplify victims' voices throughout the criminal justice system. The Bill also places greater accountability on agencies such as the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and police for the service they provide to them.

Meanwhile, victim support services will receive more than £460 million in grant funding over the next three years, helping to fund more than 1,000 Independent Sexual and Domestic Violence Advisors and a 24/7 rape crisis helpline.

## **Notes to editors**

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## **Cutting the cost of regeneration**

Councils across England could soon receive grants to help transform underused and derelict sites.

Under plans announced by the Government today (21 July), the grants would refund the costs of Landfill Tax where it acts as a barrier to redeveloping brownfield and contaminated land.

A four-week Call for Evidence will seek views on the need for, and design of, a scheme to support councils overcome the Landfill Tax burden.

The move – which could happen as early as this Autumn – would help build more homes and businesses on brownfield sites, protecting the environment and public health.

Environment Minister Lord Benyon said:

This grant will help councils build new homes and businesses on derelict eyesore sites – delivering more homes, and regenerating towns and cities.

Landfill tax has done a fantastic job in preventing unnecessary waste – but it's important it doesn't act as a barrier to regeneration.

Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury Alan Mak said:

Ensuring that communities across England have the tools to transform their local areas is central to our levelling up mission.

I'm delighted that we're exploring this bold new scheme which could remove unintended barriers for local authorities who want the best for their communities, whilst protecting our natural environment from contamination.

Landfill tax was introduced in 1996 to encourage a shift away from sending waste to landfill and towards recycling, reuse and recovery. It is currently valued at £98.60 per tonne with a lower rate of £3.15 for the least polluting material.

Landfill tax is widely regarded as being successful, with local authority waste sent to landfill in England falling by 90% since 2000. However, in some cases where remediating contaminated land is not possible without sending waste to landfill, the tax can act as a significant barrier to redevelopment.

By targeting grants in instances where Landfill Tax would otherwise have prevented remediation on commercial terms, any scheme would seek to be cost-neutral.

The Call for Evidence welcomes views on how to ensure a grant scheme would not undermine the waste hierarchy or incentivise illegal dumping. Under plans, applicants would need to demonstrate that use of landfill is reasonably necessary, and steps have been taken to minimise the quantity of waste that will be landfilled.

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## [Ukrainian refugees in the UK to mark Grade II listing of second world war era Ukrainian Cross](#)

- Refugees will visit the Cross at event with Heritage Minister Nigel

- Huddleston and Deputy Ambassador of Ukraine to the UK Taras Krykun
- Cross was built by Ukrainian refugees in 1948 as a symbol of gratitude to the UK and to mark their strong Christian faith

Recently settled Ukrainian refugees fleeing the ongoing crisis in their home country will today mark the confirmation of Grade II listed status for a second world war era Ukrainian Cross in the UK.

Refugees from areas including Kharkov, Kyiv and Lviv will meet with dignitaries from the UK and Ukraine at the site of cross in Mylor Bridge in Cornwall including the Deputy Ambassador of Ukraine to the UK, Taras Krykun, and UK Heritage Minister Nigel Huddleston.

The cross is being granted listed status to recognise its significance as a symbol of Ukrainian gratitude for refuge in Cornwall following the second world war and will serve as a reminder of the impact of wars on displaced communities throughout history.

It comes as the UK continues to welcome refugees fleeing Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Thanks to the generosity of the UK public, who have offered their homes to Ukrainians through the Ukraine Family Scheme, 155,600 visas have been granted with 95,400 Ukrainians arriving safely in the UK so far.

Heritage Minister Nigel Huddleston said:

This poignant Ukrainian Cross is an important symbol of Britain's solidarity with the Ukrainian people. Just as we welcomed those fleeing Soviet Russia 75 years ago, the whole country stands alongside Ukrainians escaping the atrocities of Putin's illegal war today.

Vadym Prystaiko, Ambassador of Ukraine to the United Kingdom, said:

The United Kingdom has been unwavering in its support and welcome for the people of Ukraine and we are thankful it continues to stand shoulder to shoulder with us. The Grade II listing of this cross is a beautiful gesture of companionship and support at a time when a new generation of Ukrainians are being forced to seek refuge in the UK.

Refugees Minister Lord Harrington said:

Thanks to the good will of the public for welcoming people into their homes, more than 95,400 people from Ukraine have arrived in our country, including over 640 in Cornwall.

As the people of Cornwall open up their communities to Ukrainians, we can today cement their special place in our shared history with

this Cross – a symbol of our solidarity and a sombre reminder of the cost of war.

Hundreds of displaced Ukrainians found themselves in Cornwall in 1947 following the second world war. They were housed in temporary accommodation on the land opposite the cross and in military buildings nearby for a year before moving to permanent accommodation in surrounding villages.

Many refugees were employed locally and made an important contribution to Cornwall's mining, fishing and farming industries.

The Cross at Mylor Bridge was built a year after the refugees' arrival in 1948 as a symbol of their gratitude and their strong Christian faith.

It bears an inscription stating: This symbol of faith / in God was erected by Ukrainians / who escaping from Russian communists / found refuge in England / 7 June 1948. The cross was blessed by three Roman Catholic priests.

Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive, Historic England, said:

The Ukrainian Cross is a poignant reminder of the human cost of war and the lives lost and displaced. It is a simple reflection of gratitude for safe refuge and fully deserves to be listed.

Fedir Kurlak, Chief Executive, Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain said:

What an incredibly fitting gesture it is for the Ukrainian Memorial in Mylor Bridge to be granted protection with grade II listing. The Cross itself reflects the United Kingdom's generosity in sharing perhaps one of its most valuable assets with peoples of different nations that have sought and continue to seek shelter here from war and oppression: the right to live in a free and democratic country. The Ukrainians who placed the Memorial in 1948, and all of their compatriots, would be extremely proud today! In the same breath it is also important to recognise the kind-heartedness of the Mylor Bridge community in continuing to protect the Cross to this day!

Rt.Revd Philip Mounstephen, Bishop of Truro, said:

Cornwall's motto is 'One and All' and that encapsulates the spirit of this special place. We recognise that our neighbours are not just those near us and like us, but those distant from us and different to us. It was in that spirit that we welcomed Ukrainian refugees in the past, and we welcome them today in the very same spirit.

Leader of Cornwall Council, Linda Taylor said:

We are delighted to welcome the Minister and the Ukrainian Ambassador to Cornwall.

This cross represents what the people of Cornwall do best, helping and supporting people in their time of need which is as true now as it was over 70 years ago.

I'd like to thank all our residents who are supporting, or have supported, refugees in their home. I know that in the years to come we will continue to come together as a community and support those that need our help whenever the need arises.

At the end of the second world war and after the collapse of Nazi Germany, 11 million people were displaced including more than two million Ukrainians.

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Notes to editors:

- In June 2008 the cross was rededicated to celebrate its 60th anniversary. Some of the original refugees (including the original camp leader), along with their descendants, attended the ceremony.

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## [Parents urged to help their kids get active over the summer holidays with the 10 Minute Shake Up](#)

- Only 45% of children are meeting the Chief Medical Officer's guidelines of one hour of physical activity a day
- The campaign seeks to inspire kids to get active by using some of their favourite stories and characters from Disney, Pixar and Marvel

Parents of primary school children across England are being encouraged to get their kids active over the summer holidays, as the government relaunches its 10 Minute Shake Up campaign.

The campaign – delivered by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and supported by Disney – returns in full for the first time in three years after it was paused in the first year of the pandemic and only

partially returned last year.

The 10 Minute Shake Up aims to inspire children and parents to get active together by breaking down the recommended daily hour of activity into manageable chunks by playing fun games together, using some of their favourite characters from Disney's Frozen and Encanto, Disney and Pixar's Lightyear, and Marvel, including Black Panther, Captain Marvel, Thor and Iron Man amongst others.

The Shake Ups are play-along games around 10 minutes in length and can be played by one or more people. From '[Mirabel Guards the Magic Candle](#)' inspired by Disney's Encanto, to [Buzz Lightyear's Ball Challenge](#) inspired by Disney and Pixar's Lightyear, there are over 40 games for people to choose from.

Children's activity levels usually drop during the holidays when they no longer have daily PE sessions, playtime at school and no travel to and from school.

Public Health Minister Maggie Throup said:

"Being active is vitally important to living longer and healthier lives and helps kids to feel good, build confidence and develop important skills.

"The 10 Minute Shake Ups are a great way for children to have fun over the summer holidays, and these free activities will also help parents keep their kids entertained for less, while making sure they're getting the daily exercise they need to stay healthy."

Data also shows that less than half (45%) of children are getting one hour of physical activity a day, with those from more deprived backgrounds less active than those from more affluent families.

The statistics specifically show that there is also an ethnicity gap with children and young people from White British (48%) backgrounds, more likely to be active than those from Asian (39%), Black (36%) and other ethnic minority (38%) backgrounds.

Professor Kevin Fenton, OHID's Regional Director for London, said:

"Children often find themselves bored with so much time on their hands during the summer holidays, and it's often a challenge for parents to keep their kids entertained, particularly if people are on a tight budget.

"Data also shows that those from ethnic minority communities are also less likely to get the one hour of physical activity as recommended by the Chief Medical Officer.

"These Shake Up games are a great way for every child – regardless of their background – to have fun for less while staying active and healthy."

Packs including sample games were sent to all primary schools in June for children to take home. All of the 10 Minute Shake Up games can be accessed for free on the 10 Minute Shake Up hub on the Better Health Families website:

[10 Minute Shake Up games – Healthier Families – NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

Dan Scott, UK Retail Director and Head of Disney Healthy Living UK said:

“Through our long-term collaboration with the 10 Minute Shake Up and our wider Healthy Living commitment, we know Disney stories and characters can help inspire millions of children and families to be more active by making exercise simple and fun.

“And this year will be no different, with a fantastic range of games using some of our most-loved stories there for everyone to try over the summer holidays.”

The campaign will run from 25 July until 21 August across social media, with events across the country run by summer activity providers and via the Department for Education’s Holiday, Activities and Food Programme.

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## [Flying taxis and vaccine carrying drones: £12 million fund opens for regulators to drive innovation across the UK](#)

News story

A new £12 million fund will support regulators and local authorities develop initiatives that help businesses bring innovative products and services to market



- New £12 million fund will support regulators and local authorities develop initiatives that help businesses bring innovative products and services to market
- the Fund is open to bids of up to £1m each and will welcome those that



- prioritise key issues such as the cost of living and levelling up the UK
- Business Minister Lord Callanan: “We’ll pave the way for entrepreneurship that can deliver tangible benefits for the public.”

A new £12 million fund to support regulators innovate and establish the UK as a world-leader in the technologies of the future – from flying cars to vaccine carrying drones – has opened for applications today (Thursday 21 July).

The Regulators’ Pioneer Fund will enable regulators and local authorities to test and experiment with bold and ambitious regulatory approaches to tackle the most pressing issues of the day – from treating disease and delivering vaccines to tackling regional inequality, for example.

Today, the government opens the third and largest ever round of the Fund to bids of up to £1 million per project and will particularly welcome those initiatives aimed at tackling the cost of living, aiding the transition to net zero, or supporting efforts to level up the UK.

**Business Minister Lord Callanan said:**

“Regulators and innovation can seem strange bedfellows, but through this fund we’ll make sure they are a match made in heaven.

“By empowering regulators to embrace the most exciting developments in their industry, we’ll pave the way for entrepreneurship that can deliver tangible benefits for the British public.”

The Fund is a crucial part of the UK’s sustained drive towards being a global science and technology superpower and will support the UK’s regulatory environment to keep pace with cutting-edge innovation. Only by harnessing innovation friendly regulation will we be able to unleash businesses to create the products and services of tomorrow, that will in turn create jobs and stimulate economic growth.

Previous funding rounds have led to significant achievements across a wide range of UK sectors, notably:

- Creating a world-first framework for licencing crash-protected containers that drones can use to carry sensitive goods including medical goods like vaccines.
- Enabling the Intellectual Property Office to harness Artificial Intelligence to improve the speed with which innovators and organisations can register intellectual property rights (IPR).
- Developing standards for gene therapy to prevent or treat disease and improve health for many people in the UK and beyond.
- Exploring the use of adaptive AI algorithms in medical devices to protect and improve public health.
- Developing a framework to facilitate the use of technology and innovation in the legal sector to address regional inequalities in access to justice.
- Creating an interactive tool to help small business owners more easily

understand fire safety requirements, reducing risk to life and the environment.

- Building an 'Innovation Hub' that will bring together relevant bodies to unblock legislative and regulatory barriers to innovations like flying taxis.

The Fund opens a year on from the government's landmark Innovation Strategy and is an important part of the government's approach to innovation friendly regulation, grasping the opportunities and flexibilities we have available to us.

The competition is now live and receiving applications until 29 September 2022. [Read further details about the competition.](#)

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