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Margaret Mitchell MSP
Convenor
Justice Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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Dear Convenor

**Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2017-18
Justice Committee's report to the Finance Committee – additional information**

I am writing with reference to paragraph 43 of the Committee's recent report to the Finance Committee – *"The Committee has heard first-hand during its current COPFS inquiry about the negative experiences of some victims and witnesses involved in the criminal justice process and welcomes increased funding for voluntary organisations to support them. The Committee would appreciate information from the Scottish Government on its plans for this additional funding."*

I understand COPFS have responded separately on a number of the other issues covered by the report. In relation to this particular point regarding additional funding, I hope you will find the following information helpful.

The Scottish Government acknowledges the invaluable service provided by staff and volunteers of victim support organisations across Scotland. The Scottish Government provides over £5m in funding to a number of such organisations, including those supporting victims involved in the criminal justice process, and this level of support will continue.

Additional funding proposed in the 2017/18 draft budget delivers the final year of the First Minister's commitment to provide £20m over three years to support violence against women justice priorities and work relating to support for children and vulnerable witnesses.

Further information about the allocation of funding relating to violence against women is available at:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-06036&ResultsPerPage=10>

Yours sincerely



Willie Cowan
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