
Commission for Victims and Witnesses

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The Poor Relation

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The Commissioner

- A statutory role
 - First set out in DV, Crime and Victims Act 2004
 - Amended in Coroners and Justice Act 2009
 - *Someone to listen to victims, challenge services, command confidence and act as their “voice”*
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The Victims' Commissioner- key duties

- Promote the interests of Victims and Witnesses
 - Encourage good practice in the treatment of victims and witnesses
 - Keep the Victims' code under review
 - Provide an annual report to Ministers
 - Give advice to Ministers when required
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What the Commissioner can and can't do

- Not responsible for providing services or funding
 - By law can't take up individual cases
 - Can learn from experience of cases and victims to influence policy
 - Profile and experience to influence policy decisions
 - Independent from government
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Why help victims

- 'Deal' between the state and the citizen
 - Stopping offenders target others
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Hearing it like it is...from

- Victims and their families
 - Victims organisations
 - Public services
 - CJS – judiciary, CPS
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What did we find?

- Maybe Service
 - And for children and young people....
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Next Steps....

- Work programme agreed
 - Two Priorities:
 - Bereaved
 - Children as witnesses in adult courts
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The challenge ahead

- Must not miss those that are vulnerable
 - Need to make sure services are targeted to those in most need
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Thank you

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 - Copies of “*The Poor Relation*” available to download from our website at:
 - <http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/docs/victims-in-justice-system.pdf>
 - www.victimscommissioner.org.uk
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