

Victims and Courts Bill

RUNNING LIST OF ALL AMENDMENTS IN GRAND COMMITTEE

Tabled up to and including

18 December 2025

The amendments are listed in accordance with the following Instruction –

Clauses 1 to 3	Schedule 2
Schedule 1	Clauses 8 to 18
Clauses 4 to 7	Title

[Amendments marked ★ are new or have been altered]

After Clause 7

LORD KEEN OF ELIE
LORD SANDHURST

After Clause 7, insert the following new Clause –

“Extension of Victim Contact Scheme

- (1) The Secretary of State must ensure that the Victim Contact Scheme is made available to –
 - (a) victims of offenders sentenced to less than 12 months for violent and sexual offences,
 - (b) victims in cases involving coercive or controlling behaviour, stalking, or harassment, and
 - (c) bereaved families in manslaughter or death by dangerous driving cases.
- (2) The Secretary of State must ensure that information under the Victim Contact Scheme is communicated in a timely and trauma-informed manner.
- (3) The Secretary of State must publish data each year on uptake and accessibility of the Victim Contact Scheme.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Secretary of State to extend the Victim Contact Scheme to certain categories of victim. It would also ensure information is provided in a timely, trauma-informed way and require annual reporting on the Scheme's uptake and accessibility.

BARONESS BRINTON

★ After Clause 7, insert the following new Clause—

“Duty to commission support services for caregivers of victims of abuse and exploitation

- (1) This section applies in respect of victims of offences relating to—
 - (a) domestic abuse,
 - (b) sexual violence, or
 - (c) child criminal exploitation, where the victim—
 - (i) at the time of the offence, was under the age of 18, or
 - (ii) is an adult at risk of harm.
- (2) It is the duty of relevant authorities to commission sufficient and specific services for the parent, guardian or person who has responsibility for the victim under subsection (1) for the purpose of securing the rights of the victim under the Victims Code of Practice for England and Wales.
- (3) Victim is defined as outlined in Section 1 of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024.
- (4) The services commissioned and provided under subsection (2) must be—
 - (a) appropriate to the needs of the caregiver in supporting the victim,
 - (b) trauma-informed and culturally competent, and
 - (c) accessible without unreasonable delay or procedural burden.
- (5) In exercising their duty under this section, relevant authorities must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
- (6) The Secretary of State must publish such guidance within six months of the passing of this Act, following consultation with relevant stakeholders including—
 - (a) victim support organisations,
 - (b) organisations representing children and vulnerable adults, and
 - (c) persons with the lived-experience of the effects of sexual or violent offences.
- (7) In this section—

“child criminal exploitation” has the meaning given in the Crime and Policing Act 2026;

“adult at risk of harm” means a person aged 18 or over who—

 - (a) has needs for care and support,
 - (b) is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
 - (c) as a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it;

“relevant authorities” has the meaning given in section 13 of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment places a duty on relevant authorities to provide specific services to the parent, guardian or person who has responsibility for a victim of domestic abuse, sexual violence or child criminal exploitation for the purposes of securing the rights of the victim under the Victims Code.

LORD KEEN OF ELIE
LORD SANDHURST

★ After Clause 7, insert the following new Clause—

“Victim personal statements

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the passing of this Act, issue revised guidance on the content of victim personal statements.
- (2) The revised guidance issued under subsection (1) must stipulate that when making a victim personal statement, a victim must be able to say anything they wish about the defendant, provided it is not contrary to any statutory limitations on free speech, makes allegations of untried criminal conduct or is disorderly language.
- (3) The court must disregard any prejudicial comments made during a victim personal statement.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Secretary of State to review how to make victim personal statements less restrictive and clarify what can be included.

LORD GARNIER

★ After Clause 7, insert the following new Clause—

“Compensation for victims of fraud and other economic crimes

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within one year of the passing of this Act, lay before Parliament a review of victims of fraud, bribery and money laundering offences.
- (2) The purpose of the review under subsection (1) is to identify how victims of such economic crimes could be better compensated without such victims needing to pursue civil action.
- (3) The Secretary of State must provide for a public consultation on the review.
- (4) In this section “victims of economic crime” includes United Kingdom and overseas victims of complex corruption cases where the harm caused by the offending is not easily quantifiable.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause requires a review to explore how domestic and overseas victims of fraud, bribery and money laundering offences could be better compensated without the need for civil proceedings to recover their losses or compensation.

After Clause 12

BARONESS CHAKRABARTI

★ After Clause 12, insert the following Clause—

“Removal of presumption of computer reliability

- (1) Section 69 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 is reinstated.
- (2) Section 60 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 is repealed.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause removes the statutory rebuttable presumption that a computer system is working correctly for the purposes of criminal evidence produced by it. Instead, prosecutors would have to offer a reasonable demonstration of the reliability of any relevant hardware and software on which it proposes to rely, thus giving the defence an opportunity to scrutinise and challenge the same.

Clause 13

LORD KEEN OF ELIE
LORD SANDHURST

Clause 13, page 16, line 36, at end insert—

- “(aa) in that sub-paragraph for “28” substitute “56”;

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment increases the window for applying to the Unduly Lenient Sentences Scheme from 28 days to 56 days.

LORD KEEN OF ELIE
LORD SANDHURST

Clause 13, page 16, line 38, after “(2)” insert “unless an application is made by a victim, or the deceased victim's next of kin, in which case notice of an application shall be given within 56 days”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment increases the window for applying to the Unduly Lenient Sentences Scheme to 56 days for a victim of a crime or a deceased victim's next of kin.

LORD KEEN OF ELIE
LORD SANDHURST

Clause 13, page 17, line 6, leave out “28-day” and insert “56-day”

After Clause 14

LORD KEEN OF ELIE
LORD SANDHURST

After Clause 14, insert the following new Clause—

“Court transcripts of sentencing remarks

- (1) Where a request is made for the sentencing remarks delivered in the Crown Court, the court must, subject to subsection (2), make those remarks available within one month of the request being received.
- (2) Sentencing remarks may be published only where a judge of the Crown Court has approved their release, having regard to—
 - (a) the accuracy of the record, and
 - (b) the need to comply with any reporting restrictions or other legal prohibitions.
- (3) Sentencing remarks made available under this section must be published free of charge and may be made available online.”

LORD KEEN OF ELIE
LORD SANDHURST

After Clause 14, insert the following new Clause—

“Sentencing guidelines on court fines

Within 18 months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Sentencing Council must revise relevant sentencing guidelines so that the court must award compensation to a victim to the value of items stolen when imposing compensation for the offence of theft, burglary, fraud, or any other crime that has resulted in a financial loss to the victim.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Sentencing Council to revise sentencing guidelines so that a court must impose compensation commensurate to the value of stolen items when issuing fines.

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