



Ministry
of Justice

Paul Maynard MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State for Justice

Paul Apreda
Both Parents Matter Cymru
61 Cowbridge Rd. East
Cardiff
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MoJ ref: ADR70646

23 July 2019

Dear Mr Apreda

PROTECTING CHILDREN AND PARENTS FROM RISK OF HARM IN THE FAMILY COURTS

Thank you for your letter received 8 July regarding the Ministry of Justice's call for evidence into how the family courts respond to allegations of domestic abuse in private law proceedings and your suggestion to expand the panel to include representation from Wales and from fathers/male victims of Domestic Abuse.

The membership of the panel is drawn from expert academics, the judiciary, social care, and third sector organisations. In addition to providing their own perspectives on the issues, a key objective for the panel is to ensure that evidence is gathered from a wider range of individuals and organisations including both parents with experience of these proceedings and the groups representing them across England and Wales. For this reason, we have recently expanded the membership of the panel to include representation from Welsh Women's Aid and from Respect a charity working with male victims of domestic abuse and those who have had allegations made against them.

I am sure you will appreciate that we have received many requests from individuals and organisations wishing to join the panel who would be able to add real value. We greatly appreciate the important work of Both Parents Matter and others working to support the welfare interests of individuals involved in proceedings in the family court system. I can assure you that there will be ample opportunity for your organisation and the individuals you support to contribute to the call for evidence and expect the panel will be announcing the opportunities for engagement very soon.

I hope you find this response reassuring, and would like to thank you again for your interest and support for this critically important call for evidence. I will pass your letter on to the panel to consider when making arrangements for further engagement. The panel will be considering a range of expertise across different sectors and would also welcome your continued support.

Yours sincerely
Paul Maynard

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