



Ministry
of Justice

Rt Hon George Howarth MP
House of Commons
London
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The Right Honourable
David Gauke MP
Lord Chancellor & Secretary of
State for Justice

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8 February 2019

Dear George

POSITION OF TRUST

Thank you for your email of 8 January on behalf of a number of your constituents, regarding the NSPCC's "Close the Loophole" campaign, which calls for the definition of "position of trust" under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 to be extended to cover a range of jobs or voluntary posts where people aged 18 or over may come into contact with 16 and 17 year olds, for example sports coaches, youth leaders and driving instructors.

We remain absolutely committed to protecting children and young people and I can assure you that the Government takes this sensitive and important area of the law seriously. We are currently considering the matters raised by the campaign and I will respond more fully in due course.

In the meantime, thank you for raising this important issue.

Yours ever,

RT HON DAVID GAUKE MP