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E Goodman
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Reference: T24760/7

24 September 2007

Dear E Goodman,

Thank you for your letter of 14 September 2007 about the Government's prostitution strategy and the option of criminalising paying for sex.

The Government's strategy rejects the option of introducing a specific offence of paying for sex. However, it does support the principles of the approach taken in Sweden - focussing on the areas of prostitution where exploitation and violence are commonplace and where the existence of a sex trade is a nuisance for local communities.

Given the recent comprehensive review we are not actively reviewing the law on prostitution, and our position remains as set out in the coordinated strategy. As with any policy area, we will ensure the effectiveness of the legal framework and will continue to monitor the experiences of other jurisdictions who adopt alternative approaches.

The Government is committed to tackling all forms of commercial sexual exploitation and street-based prostitution where it exists. Our strategy provides a framework for local areas to develop their own response, according to local circumstances. However, we are clear that this response needs to be holistic if we want to see real change.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Squire