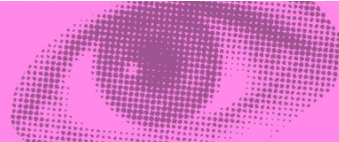


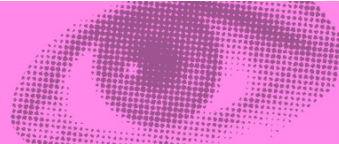
VICTIMS – ADDITIONAL RIGHTS

Additional right/protection	What it means
Victims and witnesses	
Victim Right to Review (VRR)	The Victims' Right to Review (VRR) Scheme gives victims the right to ask for a review of a police decision not to charge a suspect. VRR applies to cases where a suspect has been identified and interviewed under caution. This happens either after they've been arrested or because they've volunteered to be interviewed. You have the right to request a review if it's been fewer than three months since the police decided: • not to charge someone • that the case doesn't meet the test for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to charge someone This applies even if you: • previously withdrew your complaint and have now reinstated it • were not cooperating with the investigation but are now
Pre-recorded cross-examination under section 28	In qualifying Crown Court cases, cross-examination and re-examination can be recorded before trial so that an eligible vulnerable or intimidated witness does not have to give that evidence live at the eventual trial. It is available nationally for the statutory categories, including certain sexual-offence and modern-slavery complainants.
Reporting restrictions for child victims and witnesses	Courts have powers under the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 to prohibit publication of information identifying children involved in criminal proceedings. In some circumstances a lifelong restriction can be imposed where necessary because of fear or distress.
Lifetime reporting restriction for an adult witness in appropriate cases	Section 46 YJCEA 1999 allows a court, in qualifying circumstances, to prohibit publication identifying an adult witness where fear or distress about identification would affect the quality of their evidence or cooperation. This is discretionary rather than automatic.
Free Crown Court sentencing remarks for specified victims	At present, a free transcript of a judge's sentencing remarks can be requested by victims of rape or other sexual offences and by family members of homicide victims, including specified fatal-road offences, provided the Crown Court eligibility requirements are met.

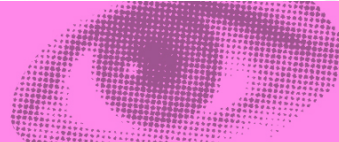
Witness anonymity order	In exceptional criminal cases, the court can make a witness anonymity order under the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. Measures can include withholding the witness's name and identifying details, use of a pseudonym, restrictions on questions and screening from view where the statutory tests are satisfied.
Witness protection arrangements	Where a witness or victim faces a sufficiently serious threat, statutory witness-protection arrangements can include extensive security measures and, in exceptional cases, relocation or a new identity. These are protective arrangements rather than something every victim can demand.
Extra protection for counselling records	The 2026 victim-information-request regime gives counselling material a higher level of protection. Such material is subject to a higher evidential threshold and a statutory presumption against its necessity and proportionality unless the relevant conditions are satisfied.
Safeguards when police seek extraction of data from a victim's digital device	The statutory digital-extraction regime requires safeguards around requests for access to phones and other devices. A victim should be told what information is sought, why it is sought and how it will be used; provision is voluntary in the relevant circumstances, refusal alone must not automatically end an investigation, and less intrusive alternatives must be considered.
Ask for an unduly lenient sentence to be reviewed	Anyone—not only the victim—can ask the Attorney General's Office to examine an eligible Crown Court sentence under the Unduly Lenient Sentence Scheme. A Law Officer must make any reference to the Court of Appeal within 28 days of sentence, and the statutory deadline cannot be extended. Under the Victim and Courts Act 2026, for sentences passed on or after June 29th 2026 the Court of Appeal may permit a late referral up to 6 months after sentencing if the request comes from a victim or bereaved close family member and is deemed in the interest of justice.
CICA	



Entitlement to apply for criminal-injury compensation	The Victims' Code gives a right to information about compensation, but the substantive ability to apply to CICA arises under the separate Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. Eligibility, time limits, nationality/residence requirements and other statutory scheme conditions apply.
Right to seek review of a CICA decision	An applicant who disagrees with a CICA decision can request an internal review in accordance with the Scheme and applicable time limit.
Right to appeal a reviewed CICA decision	After the CICA review stage, an eligible applicant can appeal the decision to the independent First-tier Tribunal. The applicable appeal deadline and procedural requirements must be met.
Hardship Fund	Low-paid workers temporarily unable to work after violent crime whose injuries do not meet the main CICA injury tariff may be eligible for short-term assistance. The Fund is discretionary and has its own criteria; current guidance provides for assistance for up to 25 days.
Victims of Overseas Terrorism Compensation Scheme	Eligible victims of certain officially designated terrorist attacks overseas can apply for compensation under the separate overseas-terrorism scheme, subject to its statutory eligibility requirements.
Parole	
Parole representations and Victim Personal Statement	Eligible victims in the Victim Contact Scheme can make representations in connection with parole proceedings and may submit a Victim Personal Statement for the Parole Board to consider, subject to the applicable rules.
Request victim-related licence conditions	Eligible victims can make representations about licence conditions intended to protect them after release, such as no-contact or geographical exclusion conditions. The final decision is for the responsible authority.
Parole decision summary	Eligible victims can request a summary explaining a Parole Board decision, subject to restrictions designed to protect confidential or sensitive material.
Request to observe a Parole Board hearing	Victims can ask to observe an oral parole hearing, although attendance depends on the Board's decision and the circumstances of the case. Public hearings can also be requested under the applicable procedure.



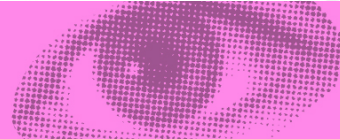
Ask for consideration of reconsideration of certain parole decisions	Where an eligible provisional release decision may be legally or procedurally flawed, a victim/member of the public can provide information asking the Secretary of State's Reconsideration Team to consider the case. This should not be described as the victim personally having the same formal application right as a party to the parole proceedings.
Mental Health Tribunal rights for victims of restricted patients	Eligible victims of violent or sexual offences committed by restricted patients can receive information and make representations about certain discharge conditions, including victim-related conditions. In relevant cases they can provide a victim impact statement and request arrangements connected with the tribunal hearing.
Future expansion of free sentencing remarks — not yet a current universal right	Government announced in January 2026 that free sentencing remarks will be extended to all Crown Court victims, but this is yet to be implemented across all UK Crown Courts.
Sexual Violence and Abuse Offences	
Lifetime anonymity for sexual-offence complainants	In most sexual-offence cases, it is a criminal offence to publish information likely to identify the complainant. The protection ordinarily begins when an allegation is made and continues for life. It derives principally from the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1992 rather than being one of the 12 headline Code rights.
Protection from sexual-history questioning	Section 41 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 generally prevents the defence introducing evidence or asking questions about a sexual-offence complainant's previous sexual history unless the court gives permission under the limited statutory exceptions.
Protection from personal cross-examination by the accused	A defendant charged with a sexual offence is prohibited from personally cross-examining the complainant. There are additional prohibitions for certain child witnesses, and courts can prohibit personal cross-examination in other cases where the statutory conditions are met, including some domestic-abuse cases.
Sexual Harm Prevention Orders and Sexual Risk Orders	Courts can impose SHPOs following qualifying offending and police/NCA can seek Sexual Risk Orders in qualifying risk cases even without a conviction. These are public-protection powers that can protect a particular victim or the



	public; an individual victim does not have an absolute right to require an order to be made.
Early Victims' Right to Review in rape and serious sexual-offence cases	Since 13 July 2026 , the CPS Early VRR scheme has been rolling out nationally across all 14 CPS Areas. In qualifying rape and serious sexual-offence cases, a different prosecutor can review a proposed decision to offer no evidence before that irreversible step is taken.
IOPC Victims' Right to Review	Since the IOPC's new policy published on 26 June 2026 , a qualifying victim can ask for review where the IOPC has made an initial decision not to refer an investigation report to the CPS. This is separate from the ordinary CPS Victims' Right to Review scheme.
Rights as an interested person at an inquest	Where a victim has died, qualifying family members/personal representatives may be recognised as “interested persons” under coronial law. This can carry rights to notification and participation, disclosure of relevant documents, attendance, asking relevant questions and making submissions within the coroner's procedural framework.
Independent Public Advocate following a qualifying major incident	The Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 created the Independent Public Advocate framework. Where the statutory major-incident arrangements apply, the IPA can assist victims, survivors and bereaved families to understand processes and rights, navigate investigations/inquests/inquiries and ensure their experiences and concerns are heard. It is not the victim's personal lawyer.
Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme — “Sarah's Law”,	A person can ask police to check someone who has contact with a child. If police identify information indicating a risk, they can disclose necessary information to the person best placed to protect the child, subject to the applicable legal tests.
Female Genital Mutilation	
Lifetime anonymity for FGM complainants	The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 provides automatic lifelong restrictions on publishing information likely to

	identify a person against whom an FGM offence is alleged to have been committed, subject to statutory exceptions.
FGM Protection Order	A person at risk of FGM, or an appropriate third party, can seek an FGM Protection Order. The court can impose wide-ranging protective terms, including measures relating to travel and passports. Protection can also be relevant where FGM has already occurred and further harm is feared.
Forced Marriage	
Forced Marriage Protection Order	A person at risk of forced marriage, or in some circumstances another person, can apply for an FMPO. Orders can prohibit removal from the UK, require passports to be surrendered and impose other protective terms. Urgent applications can be made without notice where appropriate, and no court fee is charged.
Lifetime anonymity for forced-marriage complainants	Victims/alleged victims of forced-marriage offences receive lifelong protection against publication of identifying information, subject to the statutory exceptions.
Modern Slavery	
Article 4 protection for slavery and trafficking victims	Article 4 ECHR can require authorities to identify, protect and effectively investigate slavery and trafficking. It also informs prosecutors' approach to victims who may themselves have committed offences because of their exploitation.
Modern-slavery statutory defence for compelled offending	Section 45 Modern Slavery Act 2015 provides a defence in qualifying circumstances where a slavery or trafficking victim committed an offence because of their exploitation/compulsion. Important, serious offences are excluded, and the Crime and Policing Act 2026 has expanded some exclusions.
Slavery and Trafficking Prevention/Risk Orders	Courts can impose preventative restrictions on people who pose trafficking or slavery risks under the Modern Slavery Act framework. Again, these are court/police protective powers rather than an order a victim can insist upon personally.
Modern-slavery reparation order	Where an offender is convicted of specified Modern Slavery Act offences and the relevant statutory conditions are met, the criminal court can make a reparation order requiring payment to the victim. The legislation gives victim

	compensation particular importance where confiscated assets are available.
Domestic Abuse and Stalking	
Restraining order following conviction	A criminal court can make a restraining order to protect a victim or another person from future harassment or conduct after conviction where the statutory requirements are met. Breach is itself a criminal offence.
Restraining order following acquittal	A court can also make a restraining order after an acquittal where it considers the order necessary to protect a person from harassment by the defendant. This means protection is not necessarily dependent on a conviction.
Non-molestation order for domestic abuse	An eligible domestic-abuse victim can apply to the family court for a non-molestation order protecting them or a child from abuse, harassment, threats or other prohibited behaviour. There is no court application fee.
Occupation order for domestic abuse	An eligible applicant can ask the family court to regulate who may live in, enter or approach the family home. There is no application fee.
Domestic Abuse Protection Order (DAPO)	DAPOs provide broader protective requirements or prohibitions. As at August 2026 the scheme is not yet a universal England-and-Wales application route : victim applications are available in the designated pilot areas, including Greater Manchester, Croydon/Bromley/Sutton, specified Cleveland-area authorities and North Wales.
Stalking Protection Order	Police can seek an SPO to protect a person from stalking risk. A criminal conviction is not required before an order can be obtained, and an order can impose both prohibitions and positive requirements.
Civil injunction and damages for harassment	The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 gives a civil cause of action where someone is or may be the victim of an unlawful course of harassment. The court can grant an injunction as well as damages where appropriate.
Protection from personal cross-examination in family proceedings	Domestic Abuse Act 2021 provisions prohibit perpetrators or alleged perpetrators from personally cross-examining victims in specified family-court circumstances. The court also has discretionary powers in other cases, and where necessary may appoint a publicly funded qualified legal representative to conduct the questioning.



Special measures in family proceedings for domestic-abuse victims	Domestic-abuse victims are eligible for participation/evidence protections in family proceedings, potentially including screens and video links.
Special measures in relevant civil proceedings	Victims or alleged victims of specified offences, and victims or people at risk of domestic abuse, can qualify for measures such as screens or video links where vulnerability would affect their evidence or participation.
Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme — “Clare’s Law”	Under the Right to Ask, a person or concerned third party can ask police about a current or former partner’s relevant history. Under the Right to Know, police can proactively disclose relevant information where the legal tests for disclosure are met. It is not an entitlement to receive every piece of criminal-history information requested. This right is not specifically for victims. Any concerned person has the right to ask for this information without identifying as a victim experiencing domestic abuse themselves.
Legal aid in qualifying domestic-abuse/family cases	A domestic-abuse victim may qualify for civil legal aid for relevant family or protective proceedings where the statutory financial, evidential and other eligibility requirements are satisfied. This is not automatic legal representation for every victim.
Legal aid in qualifying domestic-abuse/family cases	A domestic-abuse victim may qualify for civil legal aid for relevant family or protective proceedings where the statutory financial, evidential and other eligibility requirements are satisfied. This is not automatic legal representation for every victim.
Anti-Social Behaviour	
Anti-social Behaviour Case Review / Community Trigger	A victim of persistent antisocial behaviour can request a formal multi-agency review when the locally published statutory threshold is met. The threshold is set locally, so the right is to request the review when the applicable criteria are satisfied rather than to demand a particular enforcement outcome.
Community Remedy — victim’s views on out-of-court action	Where low-level crime or antisocial behaviour is dealt with through an appropriate out-of-court process, the victim can be given a say about the type of action imposed on the offender from the available Community Remedy options. The final disposal decision remains with the authorised decision-maker.

Criminal-court compensation order against the offender	Following conviction, a criminal court can order an offender to compensate a victim for personal injury, loss or damage. This is separate from CICA compensation; the amount and whether an order is appropriate depend on the circumstances, including the offender's means.
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