



House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Press Release – For immediate release

**Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham
17th November 2015**

Concerns around police cuts as reports of rape increase

Sarah Champion MP for Rotherham and Shadow Minister for the Prevention of Abuse and Domestic Violence has raised serious concerns about the potential impact of police cuts on the investigation rape cases.

During Home Affairs Questions yesterday, Sarah made the point that proposed cuts to the police in next week's Autumn Statement are not just about reducing the number of police officers. Reductions in funding will have a knock-on effect of less time and resources for training, loss of specialist expertise and loss of specialist supervision, all vital components in the investigation of rape cases.

Sarah Champion MP said: *"The British Crime Survey shows an 87 per cent rise in the reporting of rapes between October 2012 and March 2015.*

Sexual violence investigations need specialist expertise and supervision to ensure cases are handled correctly.

What assurances can the Minister give that the proposed police cuts will not impact on training and supervision of officers working on sexual violence cases?"

The Minister, in her response, did not comment on the potential impact that the cuts might have.

Sarah Champion MP continued: *"Next week is the start of the UN campaign to prevent violence against women and girls. The National Rape Monitoring Group has revealed that in 2014 / 2015 across England and Wales, 95 per cent of recorded rape offences against adults were against women. In addition to this, the Crown Prosecution Service announced earlier this year that the rape conviction rate decreased to 56.9 per cent. More needs to be done, not less and I am seriously concerned that the proposed cuts will lead to fewer prosecutions and more dropped cases".*

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

1. Hansard link: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/hansard/commons/todays-commons-debates/read/unknown/73/>
2. The British Crime Survey: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/>
3. The National Rape Monitoring Group: <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/publications/rape-monitoring-group-digests-and-data-2014-15/>
4. Crown Prosecution Services Violence against Women and Girls report: http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/latest_news/highest_ever_numbers_of_violence_against_women_cases_being_prosecuted_and_convicted_in_england_and_wales/