

From: [Melissa Browne](#)
To: [sentencingcouncil](#)
Subject: Good character at sentencing submission
Date: Tuesday, 11 February 2025 10:37:19 AM

To whom it may concern,

I wholeheartedly agree that 'good character references' should not be allowed.

As someone who was sexually abused, I don't care that the perpetrator was a good person. They certainly did not give me that same allowance when they chose to commit the crime against me.

The decision to remove consideration of a lack of criminal history and the provision of "good character references" during sentencing for these crimes seems not only appropriate but so obvious that I can't believe there is a consultation paper addressing it. It should simply be something as a society that we believe is the right thing to do and move on. We shouldn't have to talk about triggers, trauma or how this affects victims and re-harm us over and over. It should simply be society deciding enough is enough and this ends here.

I hope that justice will finally be done with this consultation and good character references removed.

Melissa Browne