

From: [Shaun Cloughton](#)
To: [sentencingcouncil](#)
Subject: Good character in sentencing Submission
Date: Tuesday, 11 February 2025 8:30:51 PM

To whom it may concern,

As the partner of a survivor of a convicted child sexual abuser I am deeply disappointed with the current laws regarding good character references in sentencing for crimes such as child sexual abuse as well as domestic violence, and rape.

I have seen first hand how this allows offenders to weaponise trust and reputation, which can often be the very tools they used to commit their crimes.

Allowing good character witness statements to mitigate sentencing retraumatises survivors and undermines the severity of these offences as well as allows irrelevant information to the case be used as evidence., which I have seen first hand.

Our justice system must do better. Survivors should not have to endure a process that prioritises an offenders reputation over their voices and the harm they have endured.

I urge the Sentencing Council to deliver meaningful reform by recommending abolishing good character references in these cases. It's time to create a legal system that truly prioritises justice and the well-being of survivors.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Concerned citizen,

Shaun