Address line 1

Address line 2

Address line 3

[insert date]

Dear [insert name]

**Anonymous voting registration for victims of domestic violence**

I am writing to ask you for a letter of attestation for **[insert number]** of female victims of domestic abuse who are being supported by **[insert name of organisation]**. These women wish to register anonymously to vote due to concerns for their safety if their details are logged on the Electoral Register. Being able to participate in the democratic process is not only a fundamental right, but a vital step towards helping victims to engage with society after the trauma of experiencing domestic violence.

I understand that Elizabeth Hughes, Staff Officer to ACC Louisa Rolfe, ACPO lead on Domestic Violence, wrote to you on Wednesday 1 April alerting you to your duty to provide attestation for individuals wanting to apply for anonymous registration.

In order to be eligible to be assessed for anonymous registration you must have an accepted form of evidence and/or an attestation from a ‘qualifying officer’, as set out in the Representation of the People Regulations 2001. Any police officer of or above the rank of superintendent of any police force in the UK is a ‘qualifying officer’.

As you are aware many victims of domestic violence will have significant issues obtaining evidence of domestic violence. Therefore a letter of attestation from you will be crucial in allowing them to vote in this General Election.

In your role as a ‘qualifying officer’ for anonymous registration you can support the applications of victims of domestic violence. As Elizabeth Hughes outlined in her communication to you, the fact that a woman is being supported by a specialist domestic violence service that can vouch for the verity of their experience of domestic violence, is proof enough for you to support these attestation requests. Your letter is sufficient for the Electoral Commission to allow victims of domestic violence to vote.

Please provide an individual signed and dated letter (I have attached an example) of attestation for each of the following women victims of domestic being supported by **[insert name of service].**

* [Insert name]
* [Insert name]
* [Insert name]

***The letter must certify that if the individual’s name or address were on the Electoral register the applicant’s or another member of the same household’s safety would be at risk.*** Your letter of attestation will allow these women to apply for anonymous registration and will ensure they can participate in the democratic process. Please send a copy of the letter to the Electoral Registration Officer in the **[insert local authority]** and send a copy back to **[insert name of applicant]** care of **[insert name of service]** address as above.

Please note the deadline for registering to vote in the General Election is Monday 20 April 2015.

**Yours sincerely,**

**[insert signature and name]**

Cc: [copy in your key contact in your local police force here]