

**Subject**

Impact professor Becky Milne

**Department**

Zeeland-West-Brabant  
Deputy Police Director

To whom it may concern,

**Handled by**

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**Date**

July 14, 2017

**Enclosure**

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With this letter I would like to acknowledge the impact Professor Becky Milne has had and continues to have on the level of improvement of the eyewitness interviewing program for the Dutch Police. She has especially contributed to the eyewitness interviewing program in Zeeland – West Brabant. The current program for eyewitness interviewing has been created by the project group 'Improving Eyewitness Interviewing', from now on referred to by its abbreviation IEI (In Dutch: 'Verbeteren Getuigenverklaringen'). The project group has been working closely together with Professor Milne starting as early as 2015.

November 2015 the IEI program officially kicked off with an elaborate lecture by Professor Milne providing a large audience with knowledge about memory, its flaws and strengths and how best to implement that knowledge in eyewitness interviewing (with use of the Cognitive Interview). This lecture was very well received and gave the Interviewing program a great start. It was inspirational.

April 5<sup>th</sup> 2016 Professor Milne gave a similar lecture to the Chief Crown Prosecutors and judges of the State Prosecutors Office of Breda, giving them a different perspective on the subject of interviewing. April 6<sup>th</sup> 2016 she spoke to an auditorium with over 250 police officers and its partners. Again, the response was immensely positive.

These lectures gave way to the IEI project developing a learning program and improving the level of interviewing skills for Dutch police officers in Zeeland – West Brabant, based on the knowledge of human memory processes.

As a part of the IEI educational program, in June 2016 Professor Milne collaborated in making a film about the subject of witness interviewing. For this film she gave a TED talk. This film has been used for educational purposes to show to police officers, not only in The Netherlands but in Iceland, Australia and Ireland as well.

Another part of the training consists of a workshop. During the workshop the film was also shown. The workshop was evaluated and received an overall rating of 8.3 on a scale from 0 to 10. Its use for field work received an overall rating of 8.4 on the same scale.

Within the National Dutch Police the knowledge and interest in the subject of eyewitness interviewing and use of cognitive interview strategies is starting to spread. As a result there has been interest in the IEI project from a couple of police forces within the

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Netherlands, who are implementing our knowledge in their own projects to improve the interview skills of their officers.

**Date**  
14 juli 2017

Since the IEI project started, the scope of our interest has broadened. As a result we have been asked to participate in a few pilot studies, optimizing the current witness interviewing strategy even more. As such we have been involved in the implementation of the E-Witness, the Smartpen and Bodycams.

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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Dick Schouten', written over the typed name.

Dick Schouten  
Deputy Police Director  
Zeeland-West-Brabant