

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2020-1688
Date: 20 October 2020



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Tackling domestic abuse is a priority for Police Scotland and we are committed to working with our partners to reduce the harm it causes and ultimately eradicate it.

Domestic abuse is a despicable and debilitating crime which affects all of our communities and has no respect for ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Police Scotland will not tolerate it.

Police Scotland will proactively target perpetrators and support victims to prevent domestic abuse from damaging the lives of victims and their families.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

Will Police Scotland provide the risk assessment protocol that is used prior to arrest of parents where parental alienation is suspected, since the implementation of MARACs?

I can advise you that Police Scotland does not hold the information requested. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

By way of explanation, Police Scotland does not recognise the term “parental alienation” and it is not a term that features in Scottish Criminal Law therefore we are unable to respond to the aspect of your request which refers to “arrest of parents where parental alienation is suspected” as it does not apply.

MARAC is a structured multi-agency model that provides high risk victims of domestic abuse with co-ordinated and effective multi-agency intervention. Although Police Scotland participate in MARAC meetings across the country, they are neither the lead agency or solely responsible for performing the role of chair. MARAC is a confidential collaborate approach between a variety of organisations to managing the risk to victims and improve their safety.

For more information on MARAC in Scotland, please see [SafeLives MARAC Overview - Scotland](#)

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When officers attend reports of domestic abuse it is vital to make an accurate and fast assessment of the risks faced by victims. The Domestic Abuse Questions, or DAQ, is a tried and tested way to understand risk and is based on extensive research of domestic abuse. The DAQ is based around the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence (DASH 2009) Risk Identification, Assessment and Management Model which was implemented across all police services in the UK from March 2009, having been accredited by ACPO Council, now known as National Police Chief Council (NPCC).

This was pioneering and a significant step forward in keeping victims safe, turning a reactive 'it's just a domestic' into a proactive 'you must ask' questions approach. This also meant for the first time all police services and a large number of partner agencies across the UK started to use a common checklist for identifying, assessing and managing risk.

For more information on the DASH, please see <https://www.dashriskchecklist.co.uk/>

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Glasgow on 01786 895867 quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.