



Our Ref: FOI-2011-00500 / CEB

Freedom of Information  
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November 22, 2011

Advocacy Fund  
request-91279-cd80bd59@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Advocacy Fund,

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI-2011-00500**

I write in connection with your request for information dated October 28, 2011 which was received by Warwickshire Police on October 28, 2011, in which you seek access to the following information:

***Domestic Violence Risk Assessments***

***What is the constabulary's policy and practice in regard to***

***1. Ensuring all DV/DA reports are risk assessed on the front line by officers and how is this monitored.***

***2. Which of the following is the constabularies' policy in regard to risk assessments?***  
***a. That it Risk Assess only the alleged victim (IE the reporting party)***

***Or***

***b. That it Risk Assess both alleged victim and alleged perpetrator no matter who reports (IE Dual Risk Assessment) In either case before or after an arrest or other change in the proximity of one person to the other [IE Either officers conduct as a matter of policy a single or dual risk assessment regarding each individual DV report.]***

***3. In the following how many risk assessments were done in the last year***  
***a. Single Risk Assessments***  
***b. Dual Risk Assessment (a single count for both assessments).***

***The above is raised in light of in DV/DA Risk Assessments there are a number of scenario dynamics that need to be considered as possible, listed as follows IE who is the victim and who is the perpetrator, a report alone cannot evaluate the matter.***

- ☐ **Male Perp**
- ☐ **Female Perp**
- ☐ **Both Perps (common couple ie equal)**
- ☐ **Both perps but one is reactive victim**
- ☐ **Perp makes victim look like perp**
- ☐ **Perp Inciting other to go for victim**

**(Other here can also include other family and officials like the police) Abuse by proxy. Dual Risk Assessments are a vital to enable the above to be evaluated.**

**In some cases where dual risk assessments have been done previously thought of as perpetrators have been found to be a very high risk victims IE at risk of murder, this has resulted in MARAC, without this not only adult victims would have been previously more at risk of being mis-categorised as perpetrators but this could also have put children at more high risk.**

**4. Does the constabulary have a policy that would include recording crime/prosecuting both parties if both were as above "Both Perps (common couple ie equal) or would it only prosecute or only one and how would it decide which one**

**5. Given that false allegations of DV can be made to gain advantage for another purpose, say for control of a home or in civil proceedings say involving children, what is the forces policy in regard to crime recording and prosecutions in such matters**

**6. If the event that the constabulary:**

**a. Does have a dual risk assessment policy for front line officers: How has it performed and what benefits have been seen.**

**b. Does not have a dual risk assessment policy is it willing to introduce one as being consistent with its duty to ensure public protection and its gender equality duty (GED)**

**7. Does the constabulary have a gender inclusive DV policy and DV definition as a part of its GED**

**8. In the event that:**

**a. The constabulary has a dual risk assessment policy has it ensured that its partner agencies, via its local area DV officers/coordinators, in local DV forums are aware and practice this as well as a part of their GED and as a part of MARAC's and where applicable to assist in their duties under the sex discrimination act**

**b. That the constabulary introduces as dual risk assessment policy will it ensure that its partner agencies, via its local area DV officers/coordinators, in local DV forums are aware and practice this as well as a part of their GED and as a part of MARAC's and also where applicable to assist in their duties under their sex discrimination act**

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Warwickshire Police to locate information relevant to your request. Please find the Warwickshire Police response detailed below.

The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) published a national guidance document on the Investigation of Domestic Abuse, which provides a comprehensive generic source of reference concerned with the management of Domestic Abuse which is utilised in by Warwickshire Police.

The information you have requested in question one and question 2 of your request is accessible on the internet via the Warwickshire against Domestic Abuse Partnership website and is therefore exempt under Section 21 Information Accessible by other means. This is a class based absolute exemption which does not require Warwickshire Police to evidence the harm that disclosure could cause, or to consider the public interest in respect of this information.

<http://www.talk2someone.org.uk/professional/documents-and-strategies/national-documents-strategies>

<http://www.talk2someone.org.uk/professional/documents-and-strategies>

3. 8168 DASH assessments were completed in the financial year 2010-2011.

4. Warwickshire Police actively pursues perpetrators and facilitates effective action so that they can be held accountable through the criminal justice system. There is a policy for taking positive action in all cases of Domestic Abuse, by actively seeking to arrest the perpetrator where sufficient evidence exists. If the circumstances determine that one or more of the protagonists in the Domestic incident need to be arrested or prosecuted against this will occur in-line with charging rules and guidance from the Crown Prosecution Service. Therefore there is no specific policy which deals with prosecuting one or both parties.

5. Warwickshire Police does not have a specific policy regarding false allegations when investigating Domestic Abuse incidents. When it is appropriate to take action for wasting police time or perverting the course of justice, Police Officers will do so in-line with the law.

6. Warwickshire Police utilises the DASH approach to performing risk assessments in relation to Domestic Abuse situations. All Frontline Officers have undertaken DASH training and have been issued an aide memoir in relation to standard operational procedures. The organisation is committed to improving service delivery and undertakes periodic policy reviews in-line with changes to national guidance.

7. Warwickshire Police recognises the national definition of Domestic Abuse as stated in the National Police Improvement Agency guidance in relation to the investigation of Domestic incidents and therefore operates a gender inclusive approach to providing Domestic Abuse services.

Please find the URL to the Equality Impact Assessment relating to the Investigation of Domestic Abuse in Warwickshire:

<http://www.warwickshire.police.uk/Documents/policedocs/policies/eia-Domestic-Abuse.pdf/eia-Domestic-Abuse.pdf>

8. Warwickshire Police adopt a proactive multi-agency approach in preventing and reducing Domestic Abuse and is part of the Warwickshire against Domestic Abuse partnership, as such partners are familiar with local policy and procedure.

Details can be found accessing the URL provided:

<http://www.talk2someone.org.uk/professional/Domestic-Abuse-in-warwickshire/what-warwickshire-is-doing-to-combat-Domestic>

### Appeal Rights

Your attention is drawn to the attached sheet, which details your right of appeal.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SHarris', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Sabina Harris**  
Information Compliance Officer

## **WARWICKSHIRE POLICE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEALS PROCEDURE**

This appeals procedure is issued in accordance with paragraph 36 of the Lord Chancellor's Freedom of Information Access Code of Practice.

### **Appeal Notification**

When a Freedom of Information (FOI) applicant, who has made a request for information, is dissatisfied with the response received from Warwickshire Police, the FOI applicant should inform Warwickshire Police in writing (this may be by email) of the reasons why the response is deemed unsatisfactory.

Should a person who feels that Warwickshire Police is not complying with its Publication Scheme, the person should inform Warwickshire Police in writing (this may be by email) of the reasons for their dissatisfaction.

### **Action by Warwickshire Police**

When a dissatisfaction report is received, the circumstances of the dispute will be reviewed initially by the Decision Makers in the Freedom of Information Office.

If the Decision Makers are unable to resolve the dispute with the FOI applicant, the dispute will be referred to a Board comprising a Head of Department and a Chief Officer. The Board will not have been involved in the original decision making process to compile the response.

The Board will consider the dispute and will advise the FOI applicant of their decision as soon as practicable, but within 20 working days.

### **Further Action by FOI Applicant**

If the FOI applicant remains dissatisfied with the Warwickshire Police response, they then have the option to refer the case to the Information Commissioner.