



Home Office

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Brendan J Allen
Assistant Commissioner for Dorset

By e-mail: Coroner.Service@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

30 June 2020

Dear Brendan,

Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths – Katrina Margaret Mary O’Hara

Thank you for your letter of 3 March regarding this Regulation 28 Report. I am sorry for the delay in replying, due to the original letter going astray.

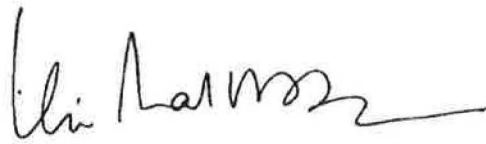
I was very sorry to read about the circumstances of Ms O’Hara’s death. Tackling domestic violence is a priority for this Government. While many positive steps have already been taken to protect victims, we know that more remains to be done and, in parallel with other work, our landmark Domestic Abuse Bill which is currently before Parliament will further strengthen protections for victims while helping to tackle perpetrators.

The matters you raise in relation to call handling, seizure of evidence and police training on Niche systems are primarily operational matters for the police. However, the Home Office liaises closely with policing leads and the College of Policing on domestic abuse issues and understands that domestic abuse cases are accorded a high priority by forces. Experience during the recent pandemic lockdown period has seen police forces employing innovative tactics to ensure that victims of domestic abuse can contact them in a wider range of ways – including for example on line as well as by telephone – as well as targeting high risk perpetrators. Police forces will be maintaining and building on such innovation as lockdown eases and good practice will be shared through the College of Policing.

In respect of potential risk indicators in perpetrators, the Home Office is working with a number of police forces and the College of Policing to pilot and evaluate approaches to identifying and tackling high risk offenders. This work includes adding suicide indicators to the list of potential risk indicators. In parallel work is ongoing to review findings from domestic homicide reviews and academic research with a view to more accurately identifying key characteristics and risk factors for domestic homicides.

We expect the results to be used to review or refine the current risk assessment processes as well as helping to identify useful interventions with perpetrators or potential victims.

We are fully committed to doing everything that we can to protect victims of domestic abuse and violent crime and to reducing future homicides.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kit Malthouse', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kit Malthouse MP
Minister of State for Crime and Policing