



Home Office

Direct Communications Unit  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Tel: [REDACTED]  
[www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

David Jones  
[REDACTED]

DECS Reference: [REDACTED]

5 Feb

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 18 November which shared the Regulation 28 report pertaining to Alfie Gildea's death and please accept my apologies for the delayed response.

The Report raised several matters of concern relating to Greater Manchester Police's response to the management of Alfie's father. I would like to share what has been done at a national level to address some of these issues.

The management of serial and serious perpetrators of abuse is key to preventing further abuse and we are keen to ensure that we have the right systems in place to enable the police and agencies to accurately identify the risks posed by perpetrators. As part of this work, the College of Policing issued guidance to police forces in last Summer on the 'Identification, assessment and management of serial or potentially dangerous domestic abuse and stalking perpetrators'. The key principles set out that forces should have processes in place to identify serial or potentially dangerous domestic abuse or stalking perpetrators and ensure that information about the perpetrator is recorded on the Police National Computer, the Police National Database or ViSOR as appropriate.

The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS), also known as Clare's Law, is an important tool designed to keep people safe and we are working with the police to review the guidance used by forces. Under Clause 70 of the Domestic Abuse Bill, we are seeking to place the guidance that underpins DVDS onto a statutory footing to drive greater use and consistent application of the scheme by placing an express duty on the police to have regard to the guidance. Alongside legislation, we are reviewing the content of the guidance to ensure they are applied consistently across the country and are as effective as possible in helping to protect victims. This review will consider the timelines involved in the process and the use of risk assessments and safety planning.

The coercive and controlling behaviour offence is increasingly being used by police, but we continue to consider how best to work with forces to ensure they understand it and enforce the laws with maximum effect.

Finally, the Domestic Abuse Bill will introduce new Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs). Once the Bill receives Royal Assent, we intend to pilot the Orders before rolling it out more widely. Police training will be an integral part of the rollout of DAPOs and we will produce detailed statutory guidance and a programme of training and toolkits for professionals to ensure there is a strong understanding of the new orders.

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Email: [REDACTED]