

## Domestic Homicide Reviews – Consultation

### RESPONDING TO THE CONSULTATION

The Department of Justice (DOJ), is seeking your views on a proposed model for the introduction of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) in Northern Ireland, which will seek opportunities for learning from cases of homicide resulting from domestic abuse or violence.

Please use this questionnaire to tell us your views on the proposed model.

Please send your response, **no later than 5pm on Friday 28 September 2018**, to:

**Department of Justice**  
Community Safety Division  
Room A4.03  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
BELFAST  
BT4 3SG

Tel: 028 9052 3772

E-mail: [DOJCommunity.SafetyUnitProjMailbox@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:DOJCommunity.SafetyUnitProjMailbox@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk)

## Confidentiality and Access to Information Legislation

The Department intends to publish responses to the consultation and a summary response report on our website. Any contact details or information that will identify a respondent as a private individual will be removed prior to publication. All information will be handled in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Your information will not be shared outside of the Department.

### What rights do you have?

- You have the right to obtain confirmation that your data is being processed, and access to your personal data;
- You are entitled to have personal data rectified if it is inaccurate or incomplete;
- You have a right to have personal data erased and to prevent processing, in specific circumstances ;
- You have the right to 'block' or suppress processing of personal data, in specific circumstances;
- You have the right to data portability, in specific circumstances;
- You have the right to object to the processing, in specific circumstances;
- You have rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling.

Respondents should also be aware that the Department's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) may require that any responses not subject to specific exemptions under the Act be communicated to third parties on request.

If you have any concerns about how your personal data has been handled please contact the **Departmental Data Protection Officer**:

Tel: 028 9037 8617

Email: [DataProtectionOfficer@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:DataProtectionOfficer@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk)

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office.

### **Northern Ireland Information Commissioner's Office**

**3rd Floor  
14 Cromac Place  
Belfast  
BT7 2JB**

**Tel:** 028 9027 8757 or 0303 123 1114

**Email:** [ni@ico.org.uk](mailto:ni@ico.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.ico.org.uk/](http://www.ico.org.uk/)

Thank you for completing this questionnaire and providing input to this consultation.



## SECTION 1: ABOUT YOU

### Consultee Details

#### Question (a):

I am responding as

A member of the Public

On behalf of an organisation

Other.....(*Please specify*)

#### Question (b):

In some cases, the DOJ might need to contact respondents to seek further clarification on their response or to send out a summary of responses to the consultation.

Please tick the below consent box if you are willing to provide the DOJ with contact details for these purposes:

All information will be handled in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Name:	[redacted - personal information]
Job Title: ( <i>if applicable</i> )	[redacted - personal information]
Organisation: ( <i>if applicable</i> )	La Dolce Vita Project
Address:	The Wee House, 13 Queen Street
City/Town:	L/Derry
Postcode:	BT48 7EQ
Email Address:	[redacted - personal information]

**This consultation seeks views on a proposed model for the introduction of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) in Northern Ireland, which will seek opportunities for learning from cases of homicide resulting from domestic abuse or violence.**

**Question 1:**

**Do you have any comments to make about the purpose of a Domestic Homicide Review?**

If yes, please provide comments below.

**No**

**Question 2:**

**Do you have anything to say about when a DHR will or will not be commissioned?**

If yes, please provide comments below.

**We would like more information in reference to the reasons the DHR process will not consider death by suicide at this stage.**

**Question 3:**

**Do you have anything to say about what may 'typically' be outlined within the terms of reference?**

If yes, please provide comments below.

**We suggest that consideration given to note any family care proceedings the victim/perpetrator may have been attending/ involved in.**

**Question 4:**

**Do you have anything to say about:**

- **the knowledge and skills of the chair**
- **the recruitment and contingency for the role of chair?**

If yes, please provide comments below.

**No**

**Question 5:**

**Do you have any comments to make about DHR panel membership?**

If yes, please provide comments below.

**No**

**Question 6:**

**Do you have any comments to make about the consideration of equality and diversity issues by the Panel?**

If yes, please provide comments below.

No

**Question 7:**

**Do you have anything to say about family involvement in the process?**

If yes, please provide comments below.

**We would like consideration given to ensure the family is correctly supported emotionally and mentally throughout the process of their involvement.**

**That they have the opportunity to receive counselling or supported through other mental health services, may this be by telephone or face to face.**

**La Dolce Vita Project are open to receiving such referrals for all family members.**

**Question 8:**

**Do you have anything to say about the involvement of other individuals in the process?**

If yes, please provide comments below.

**We believe anyone involved in the process will require support and that should be in place for them with the appropriate services.**

**We would also question how truthful the perpetrator would be with those involved in this process.**

**Question 9:**

**Do you have any comments about the two key elements of the DHR process:**

- (i) initial findings, learning and identification of actions needed; and**
- (ii) identification of key findings, learning, actions and longer term change**

**to improve service and the response in future cases of domestic violence and abuse?**

If yes, please provide comments below.

**Not at this time.**

**Question 10:**

**Do you have any comment on the approach proposed regarding gathering information, or any suggestions as to how best this could be undertaken?**

If yes, please provide comments below.

**We would suggest consideration given to a meeting with representation from each agency, voluntary and community organisations with the DHR Panel to compile specific questions in relation to supporting a report, rather than each organisation giving a summary. This we envisage will identify patterns of behaviours, that could potentially support early intervention support plans.**

**Question 11:**

**Do you have any comment on the suggested approach around publication of the DHR report and do you have any views on the frequency of report publication?**

If yes, please provide comments below.

**We believe a report should be completed after each DHR and an End of year report.**

**Question 12:**

**Do you have any comment on the potential outcome of the reviews through the development of reports?**

If yes, please provide comments below.

Not at this time.

**Question 13:**

**Do you have any comment on the role and scope of the Senior Oversight Forum?**

If yes, please provide comments below.

**Not at this time.**

**Question 14:**

**Do you have any comment on the organisations that would make up the Senior Oversight Forum, particularly the additional bodies that could be considered, or others that should be considered?**

If yes, please provide comments below.

**VOYPIC (Voices of Young People In Care). We believe VOYPIC should be considered to represent those children impacted that maybe placed in care as a result of the homicide.**

**Question 15:**

**Do you have any comment on the potential implications the proposed model may have on equality or human rights?**

If yes, please provide comments below.

**Not at this time.**

**Question 16:**

**Do you have any further comment to make about the proposed model?**

It would be helpful if you reference which part of the document you are commenting on. If you refer to any other documents, please provide the title, author and if possible approximate date of publication or alternatively a hyperlink if it can be accessed online.

**We believe that when exploring the financial impact consideration should be given for funding to support the charities, voluntary and community organisations, who can provide a valuable support service to those affected by a domestic homicide.**