

Consultation Questionnaire

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

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

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

Website: 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... *(Please tick one option only)*

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>	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Address:	Island Civic Centre 1 The Island Lisburn
City/Town:	Lisburn
Postcode:	BT27 4RL
Email Address:	[redacted] @lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk

[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.

Domestic Homicide reviews should be introduced in Northern Ireland in order to maximise all opportunities for learning by the relevant organisations regarding how local professionals and organisations worked with victims and perpetrators.

The review should be carried out sensitively with any learning implemented as a matter of urgency to ensure robustness and build confidence in the community.

Question 2:

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

If yes, please provide comments below.

Regardless of the Domestic Homicide Review process being in the early stages, it is proposed that it should cover death by suicide given the recognised links between domestic violence and abuse. The incidences of suicide in Northern Ireland is the highest in Europe and there will be undoubtedly be a link with abuse/violence. This must form part of the review process.

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.

The 'typical' terms of reference outlined in the consultation document are sufficiently comprehensive and agreed.

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.

The details as outlined in the consultation document regarding the knowledge and skills of the chair and the recruitment and contingency for the role of chair are accepted.

Question 5:

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

If yes, please provide comments below.

It is essential that there is representation from the voluntary and community sector with a specialism in working with victims of domestic violence and abuse, in addition to those who have a legislative requirement to be involved. They will bring significant and relevant expertise to this sensitive area of work.

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 further comment to make.

Question 7:

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

If yes, please provide comments below.

Agreed as per consultation document. No further comment to make.

Question 8:

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

If yes, please provide comments below.

Family involvement will be, in most instances, central to the process and as such should be handled in a sensitive manner. It is important to ensure they are involved at all stages and kept informed and updated at all times to ensure confidence and continued co-operation until the process is concluded.

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.

It is agreed that the requirement of criminal proceedings should not hamper the gathering or collection of information especially for any easily identifiable and obvious change to be progressed as soon as possible. Criminal proceedings must not prevent change being implemented as soon as possible as it could impact how cases are handled in the immediate future.

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.

Agreed as per consultation document.

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.

Given the need for prevention of such tragic cases and the essential need for learning, a single report should be prepared and made publicly available in order that there is transparency and accountability. There should be an individual report for each case.

In terms of a brief thematic report being produced, a minimum of every two years is sufficient.

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.

It is crucial that the reports include the actions taken as a result of any learning and a timescale for implementation if this has not already happened. Tangible results will be very important to the families of the victims to ensure confidence in the process and for future DHRs.

Question 13:

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

If yes, please provide comments below.

No further comment to make.

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.

The organisations suggested are agreed, however there should be suitable flexibility in the system to allow the participation of organisations/representatives relative to the DHR being undertaken.

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.

No further comments to make.