

Wednesday 26 SEPTEMBER 2018

Ulster Unionist Party and Domestic Homicide Reviews

Response on behalf of the Ulster Unionist Party, by the Party's Justice Spokesperson, Doug Beattie MC MLA.

The Ulster Unionist Party fully supports the principle of Domestic Homicide Reviews and their stated aim of seeking opportunities for learning from cases of homicide resulting from domestic violence and abuse.

The statistics quoted indicate that since 2010 an average of five people per year have been killed in Northern Ireland by a current/former partner or close family member.

Domestic violence of any kind is a blight on our society and we support all and any measures to prevent it happening in the first place, to reduce it, to help victims and to punish the perpetrators with sentences that are meaningful, act as a deterrent and keep the public safe.

We therefore fully support the statement that in tackling domestic violence and abuse. our obligation will always be to the victims.

The fact that DHRs were introduced in England and Wales in 2011 suggests that they are a worthwhile enterprise and the experience gained in England and Wales should provide Northern Ireland with a wealth of evidence as to best practice and what should be of most help here.

A degree of flexibility can be built into the system so that best practice can be built on, but given that DHRs have been operating in England and Wales for seven years, we see no need for the process of introducing them here to be over-complicated or face further delay, and urge the DoJ to proceed as soon as possible.

ENDS

[Redacted personal information]

Ulster Unionist Party Press & Policy Office