

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...On Behalf of an Interagency Partnership.. Western Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership*(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>	WDSVP
Address:	
City/Town:	
Postcode:	
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.

The WDSVP members are, as individual agencies responding to the Domestic Violence Homicide Review. As a Partnership we believe that this process of review will strengthen our overall response to domestic and sexual violence. We are fully committed and supportive of the need to learn lessons from these reviews to ensure that we as individual agencies and as multi-agency partners are on a path of continuous improvement and development.

In our discussions on the consultation a number of specific points were made;

There is an ongoing need within partnership structures such as the WDSVP to review the nature and effectiveness of communication among and between practitioners. Where quality practice in working together exists it happens because the agencies and practitioners concerned know it is needed. The need for a review is therefore based on an agreed commitment to answer our own questions to ourselves as well i.e. “Did we do enough together? What went wrong?”

It is crucial to look at the current system of MARAC and Case Management Reviews and how they work to take the best of current existing good practice. There will be some areas where negotiation and agreement will be vital i.e. when the victim is under 18 and SBNI are involved via the CMR process.

There is a need to ensure that the rationale for decision making is shared and open to perspectives of other stakeholders while maintaining the authority and expertise of the lead body to make the decision. The importance of recording evidence at every stage of the help seeking process of the victim and the risk assessment that supports that process needs to be underpinned by genuine engagement among and between agencies.

The DHR needs to be seen as part of a longer continuum of safeguarding strategies

including earlier intervention and protection planning with consistent review of issued such as “Are we putting the safety of the victim first? What agencies are not ‘talking’ to each other? Do we have enough shared understanding of the impact of coercive control upon the victim? What is happening regarding evidence gathering/risk assessment and safety planning?”

Question 2:

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

If yes, please provide comments below.

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.

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.

Question 5:

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

If yes, please provide comments below.



A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the respondent to provide their comments on DHR panel membership.

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.

Question 7:

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

If yes, please provide comments below.

Question 8:

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

If yes, please provide comments below.

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.

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.

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.

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Question 13:

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

If yes, please provide comments below.



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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.



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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.

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.