

18/06/2025

REF: RM/038831/FOI800

Sent via email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – CON-038831 FOI800

Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) office have now completed the search for the information which you requested on 11th June 2025.

Your request:

I am writing to request the following under the Freedom of Information Act, regarding the use of risk assessment checklists in domestic abuse and related services provided **or** commissioned by your organisation:

1. Is it a standard provision or requirement in contracts with third-party providers of relevant services (e.g. domestic abuse services, victim support), for them to use the DASH risk assessment checklist as part of their service?
2. Is it a standard provision or requirement in contracts with third-party providers of relevant services, for them to use the DARA risk assessment checklist?

If the answer to any of the above is more complicated than a "yes/no", please provide a short explanation.

If you are able to provide part but not all of the information requested, please do so, rather than rejecting the whole request.

If you are encountering practical difficulties with complying with this request, please contact me as soon as possible (in line with your section 16 duty to advise and assist requesters) so that we can discuss the matter and if necessary I can modify the request.

Our response:

1 - As part of the OPCC's Commissioned Victim services (Avon and Somerset Victim Support, Young Victims Service, SAFELINK (ISVA service), Unseen (Modern Slavery)) funded through our Core Grant, we do include the following clauses as part of their contracted agreement: *refer to the use of DASH but not specifically to the use of a DASH risk assessment.*

"In working with any victim of domestic abuse the service shall ensure good working relationships and follow established practices (such as DASH) with the relevant local specialist domestic abuse provider. Given the lead role of Local Authorities in the commissioning of domestic abuse services the



Contractor will enable the Customer to share information with them as required to ensure efficient and effective pathways and services."

"In particular where the service will be expected to provide a level of support to victims of domestic abuse deemed to be 'standard' risk on the DASH assessment, the Service should flex to support demand and specialist domestic abuse service availability in that area. A referral to a specialist domestic abuse service where provision exists should always be the preference for victims of any age."

"Referrals from the Victim Referral Hub (Lighthouse) will be sent to the Contractor by email and will be accompanied by the Common Needs Assessment and relevant risk and vulnerability assessment ('BRAG' and where relevant, 'DASH')"

The OPCC does not directly commission specialist domestic abuse services, this is commissioned by the five Local Authorities in Avon and Somerset. These services are funded via the Police and Crime Grant to Community Safety Partnerships and its allocation of funding for IDVAs from the Ministry of Justice general grant.

Our five DA commissioners (Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol City, North Somerset, Somerset, South Gloucestershire) will be able to provide you with more detail into their individual local provision through direct contact with them.

The victim element of our DRIVE Home Office perpetrator funded services also has a requirement to complete DASHs as needed.

2 - None of our Core Commissioned Services reference the use of DARA. As above, our local DA Commissioners will be able to provide you with more detail into local provision across the Local Authority and if any of their services use the DARA risk assessment checklist. None of the local Drive services are linked to the use of DARA.

If you are unhappy about how your request has been handled and wish to make a complaint or request a review of the decision then you should write to:

The Chief Of Staff
Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner's Office
Valley Road
Portishead
Bristol
BS20 8JJ

Please note, Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner's office provides you with the right to request a re-examination of your case under its review procedure. The appeals document is attached for your reference.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have



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exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner's office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: <http://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Officer

Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioners Office