



Jess Phillips MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls)

Home Office

2 Marsham Street

SW1P 4DF

CC: The Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson MP, Minister of State (Minister for Policing, Fire and Crime Prevention); Alex Davies-Jones MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Victims and Violence Against Women and Girls)

21 March 2025

Dear Minister,

RE: Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DARDR) Sub-Group Recommendations

We, the undersigned – as the Chair of the Local Government Association (LGA), the Chair of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC), and the Domestic Abuse Commissioner (DAC) – are writing to share with you a report containing recommendations to support your aims in improving the Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DARDR) process in England. These recommendations have been formed by a sub-group of the DARDR forum, which was jointly established by our organisations to support the Government in addressing ongoing concerns and challenges with the review process.

Domestic abuse continues to be a significant issue in the UK, with millions of individuals affected each year and hundreds of domestic homicides recorded annually, and we welcome the Government's ambitions to combat this. We similarly support the Government's goal of halving violence against women and girls within the next 10 years and believe that strengthening the DARDR process will contribute to achieving this objective. DARDRs play a vital role in identifying systemic failures and ultimately preventing future deaths. However, as outlined in our report, the current DARDR process faces several barriers that inhibit it from reaching its full potential in preventing future homicides and saving lives. These challenges, such as resource constraints, quality assurance process delays, and unclear statutory guidance, need urgent attention to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the process.

Our report underscores several key areas where improvements could be made, notably in the areas of resourcing, review efficiency, and strengthened statutory guidance. Additionally, we believe that there is a longer-term opportunity to consider learning from the Welsh Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) model to better inform England's DARDR process.

We strongly urge the Government to carefully consider these recommendations as a means of strengthening the DARDR process and, in turn, preventing future domestic abuse-related deaths. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your team to discuss these recommendations in more detail and explore how we can work together to implement necessary changes. We also collectively stand by to work with you in other policy areas to combat domestic abuse.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to hearing from you. Please send your response to arian.nemati@local.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Louise Gittins'.

Cllr Louise Gittins
Chair, Local Government Association

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Emily Spurrell'.

Emily Spurrell
Chair, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Jacobs'.

Dame Nicole Jacobs
Domestic Abuse Commissioner