

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

REQUEST NUMBER: 6 - 2025

REQUEST DETAILS:

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?

RESPONSE

1. The contract specification for the Suffolk Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service, commissioned by the PCC specifies that the provider should "Complete approved risk assessments for all appropriate victims to safeguard effectively and consistently." In practice the OPCC can confirm this is undertaken using the DASH risk assessment.

For context, referrals to the IDVA service are made directly from the police through the Athena system (following police use of the Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (DARA)) or, in the case of other agency risk assessment (DASH) via the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process. The domestic abuse, stalking and honour-based violence questionnaire (DASH) continues to be used by partners and DA specialist support services and for secondary risk assessment.

2. No, the OPCC do not specify the use of DARA. The OPCC understands that DARA is a tool used by Suffolk Constabulary and not within third party providers of domestic abuse support services in Suffolk.