| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-0509Responded to: \*\* February 2025 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

Tackling domestic abuse is a priority for Police Scotland and we are committed to working with our partners to reduce the harm it causes and ultimately eradicate it.

Domestic abuse is a despicable and debilitating crime which affects all of our communities and has no respect for ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Police Scotland will not tolerate it.

Police Scotland will proactively target perpetrators and support victims to prevent domestic abuse from damaging the lives of victims and their families.

Police Scotland defines domestic abuse as:

“Any form of physical, verbal, sexual, psychological or financial abuse which might amount to criminal conduct and which takes place within the context of a relationship. The relationship will be between partners (married, cohabiting, civil partnership or otherwise) or ex-partners. The abuse may be committed in the home or elsewhere including online”

Please note that the definition of Domestic abuse in Scotland differs from the definition of Domestic Violence in England and Wales which includes wider familial abuse e.g. from parents or children etc.

**1. Please provide the guidance/training given to police officers regarding the use of leading questions when interviewing a witness, victim and suspect.**

Returned to FOI to contact Training

**2. Please provide the Domestic Abuse Questions (DAQ)**

The Domestic Abuse Questions (DAQ) are based on the Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse, Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment (CADDA DASH) questions that are used in England and Wales, and also by third sector agencies such as Womens Aid and ASSIST. The DAQ adds an additional three questions to the DASH regarding child protection.

The DASH can be found on the following link.

<https://safelives.org.uk/resources-for-professionals/dash-resources/>

**3. Please provide the guidance to police officers on when the DAQ is to be carried out and how it is recorded and retained**

Victims are asked the DAQ by officers attending every domestic abuse incident to establish any immediate risk and assist with ongoing safety planning.

The response to DAQs will be recorded by attending officers and thereafter input onto the Vulnerable Person Database (iVPD) where they will be retained for a timescale in line with Data Protection legislation.

**4. Please provide the purpose(s) of the DAQ**

When someone is experiencing domestic abuse it is vital to make an accurate and fast assessment of the danger they are in so they can get the appropriate help as quickly as possible. The Domestic Abuse Questions are a tried and tested set of questions used to identify, assess and help manage risk in a standardised framework.

The DAQ structures and informs decisions already being made by officers. It acts as a guide and does not provide an absolute measure of risk using cut off scores. Identification and assessment of risk is not a predictive process and there is no existing accurate procedure to calculate or foresee which cases may result in further harm. Rather, risk identification and assessment is based on structured professional judgement.

The answers to the DAQ will support the measures which require to be put in place for safeguarding the victim/s welfare. It is intended for professionals, including our partner agencies and aims to provide a consistent understanding of risk across professions.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by email or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by email or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.