

Domestic Attempt Murder assessment 2020

UPDATE TABLE OF CONTETS BEFORE DISEMINATION

Analysis and Performance Unit June 2021

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1. Executive Summary

1.1. Analysis of Domestic Attempt Murder in Scotland 2020

This report aims to analyse data for all domestic attempt murder that took place in Scotland between 1st January 2020 and 31st December 2020. In order to establish if 2020 was in any way different to previous years, a period between January 2015 and December 2019 was taken into consideration for comparison purposes.

The primary data used to inform this strategic assessment has been obtained from internal police sources. The accuracy of the data obtained for analysis is reliant on the information submitted to police systems. Figures are based on the dates which the domestic attempt murder was committed, not the date reported.

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There were 39 recorded domestic attempt murders in Scotland.

64% of victims were previously documented in relation to domestic abuse.

61% of perpetrators were previously documented in relation to domestic abuse, some with multiple partners.

Every division, except L and V, recorded incidents of domestic attempt murder.

77% of perpetrators were male

79% of victims were female

85% of perpetrators had criminal histories, 49% had pending cases, 28% were on bail. Domestic attempt murders account for 16% of the overall attempt murders.

87% of domestic attempt murder cases occurred indoors, mainly within shared homes.

S35(1)(a)&(b)

30% of perpetrators were under influence of alcohol.10% of perpetrators were under influence of alcohol and drugs.

23% of perpetrators have previously been recorded with mental health conditions, 5% with depression and 10% being suicidal

25 of the 39 victims were in the 20-39 age category

1.2. Main Findings/Themes

The overall numbers of domestic attempt murder have remained steady between 2015 and 2020, with an average of 39 cases per year. The only exceptional year was 2017 where there were only 25 recorded domestic attempt murders.

With exception of L and V Divisions, all other divisions have recorded domestic attempt murders in 2020. The last case in L Division was in 2015 while in V Division it was in 2018.

Time – Taking into consideration the whole period between 2015 and 2020, no pattern has been identified in regards to time of the year.

While looking at day of the week, it appears Thursday sees the lowest amount and Friday to Sunday the highest amount of cases.

Time of day may have slightly more influence as there are more cases between 1800 and 0200 hours and fewer cases between 0500 and 1000 hours.

Gender – Similar to domestic homicide, domestic attempt murder disproportionally affects women; of the 39 victims, 31 were female (79%). Comparatively, of the 39 perpetrators, 30 were male (77%). The vast majority of domestic attempt murders involved heterosexual couples. **S33(1)(b)**

Age – The majority of victims were aged between $\frac{S38(1)(b)}{(59\%)}$ (59%) with the highest number in the age range of 30-39. From perpetrators again majority of them were aged between $\frac{S3}{814}$ (51%) with the highest number in the age range of 30-39.

Trigger and Motivation – Triggers and motivation vary across the cases, but it appears there are three common threads through them, abuse of substances, controlling behaviour and deprivation.

Use of alcohol and drugs – From limited recorded information, 12 perpetrators (30%) were under influence of alcohol, 4 were under influence of alcohol and drugs (10%) and 2 were under influence of drugs only (5%). In 21 cases there was no recorded information or alternatively they were sober.

Mental Health¹ – Mental health issues pose a concern for both victims and perpetrators. 41% of repeat perpetrators and 46% of repeat victims were suffering from mental health issues.

¹ Data for mental health has been extracted from past iVPD records for repeat perpetrators and repeat victims.

1.3. Challenges

Locus – The main challenge, similar to domestic homicide, is that vast majority (34 out of 39) domestic attempt murders happened in private spaces / dwellings, ^{S35(1)(a)&(b)}

S35(1)(a)&(b)

S35(1)(a)&(b)

1.4. Opportunities

Education – Police Scotland should in cooperation with other public agencies and organisations create a programme to be run in educational institutions to raise awareness of domestic abuse (both psychological and physical) and provide tools to students in order to be able to spot and effectively deal with domestic abuse, be it in their own relationships or those of their parents, siblings and friends.

One aspect that needs to be considered and raised during such awareness
programmes is to make sure that people are told if they have been victim of, or
witnessed such behaviour, it is nothing to be ashamed of, as it is not their fault, or
else risk that victims and witnesses may not come forward to the authorities.

Awareness - Police Scotland should in cooperation with other public agencies and organisations create an awareness campaign to be run in media to showcase different types of domestic abuse (both psychological and physical) in order for viewers and consumers of content to easily spot any such behaviour in their own relationships or those of their family members and friends.

Partnership – Police Scotland requires to work closely with other public agencies and third party organisations to effectively share information about any recorded domestic abuse in order to prevent it from further escalation as well as to safeguard the victims and deter perpetrators before it is too late.

Following examples – Police Scotland should look closely into the Massachusetts Model² and consider applying some of same methods to Scotland.

Monitoring – Police Scotland needs to continue monitoring for cases of domestic abuse, try to establish possible risks to the victims and where possible provide assistance in order to safeguard victims, as well as keeping perpetrators away from victims and away from any opportunity for them to (re-)offend.

² Policinginsight – Expand the Massachusetts Domestic Violence High-Risk Response Model (Expand the Massachusetts Domestic Violence High-Risk Response Model - Policing Insight – Requires login) – see also Appendix III. of this report.

2. Key Findings

- Domestic attempt murders account for 16% of overall attempt murders in 2020.
- There is an average of 39 domestic attempt murders per year³.
- 25 of the 39 victims were previously documented in relation to domestic abuse.
- 7 of the perpetrators had no previous documented history of domestic abuse on iVPD.
- S35(1)(a)&(b)
- 85% of perpetrators had criminal histories prior to the domestic attempt murder.
- 77% of perpetrators were male in 2020.
- 31 of the 39 victims were female.
- 25 of the 39 victims were in the 20-39 age category.
- 34 of the 39 domestic attempt murders took place indoors, the majority of these being in the shared home.

S35(1)(a)&(b)		

3. Methodology

The primary data used to inform this report has been obtained from internal police sources, namely ScOMIS, interim Vulnerable Person Database (iVPD), Scottish Intelligence Database (SID), Criminal History Scotland (CHS), Police National Computer (PNC) and all legacy local systems.

Police systems have been interrogated in relation to domestic attempt murder for the full year 2020 (Jan-Dec). Initial search was made though iVPD which returned 39 cases of attempt murder with domestic aggravation. This was further confirmed by interrogating ScOMIS.

In order to put into perspective whether 39 cases in 2020 is higher or lower than normal, a decision has been made to compare it to the statistics for the preceding 5 years, namely from January 2015 to December 2019.

All information has been recorded within Excel spreadsheets with CHS and PNC records being saved in PDF format for the duration of drafting and completing this report.

4. Limitations

The accuracy of the data obtained for analysis is reliant on the information submitted to databases. S35(1)(a)&(b)

³ Between Jan 2015 and Dec 2020

S35(1)(a)&(b)

5. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to establish whether domestic attempt murders for 2020 were in any way different to previous years as well as to establish possible key risk areas.

Based on statistics the number in 2020 is same as previous year (2019) and on average similar as to the last 6 years, with exception being 2017 when only 25 domestic attempt murders have been recorded.

S30(b)(ii)

This is due to people being

asked to remain indoors and were actively requested to work from home where possible. It is well known and recorded that majority of domestic abuse happens within victims or couples home address or other private spaces. Having victims and perpetrators locked within their home address due to the pandemic provides greater opportunity for offending as victims are even less likely to get outside and socialise with their family, friends or work colleagues.

The fact that victims of domestic abuse could not safely leave their home or distance themselves from the perpetrators in order to get help would suggest that actual number of domestic attempt murders is much higher than the number recorded.

S30(b)(ii)

6. Analysis

Below data has been extracted from Police Systems. For data tables, please refer to **Appendix I. - Tables** section of this report.

Unless specifically mentioned, all of the below annual data is between 1st January and 31st December.

6.1. Divisions

Between 2015 and 2020 there were 1500 attempt murders recorded on Police Scotland crime systems. Of these, domestic attempt murders represent 233 cases. In 2020 alone there were 249 attempt murder cases of which 39 were domestic related.

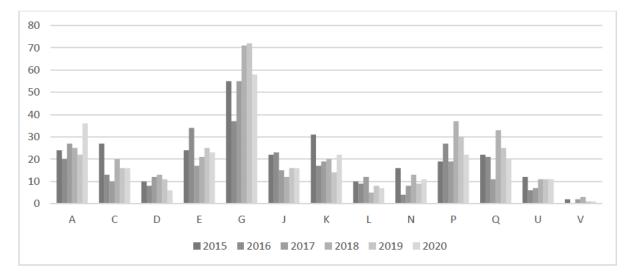


Chart 6-1. - ScOMIS - Change in overall attempted murders per Division between 2015 and 2020

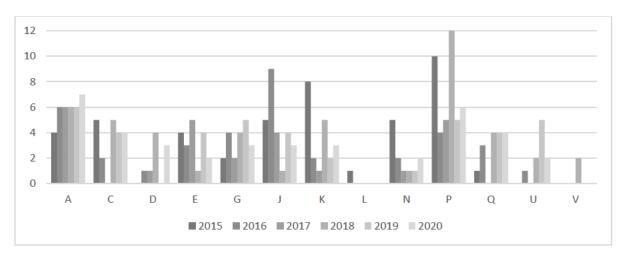


Chart 6-2. - iVPD - Change in domestic attempt murders per Division between 2015 and 2020

For 2020, domestic attempt murders represent 16% of the total of recorded attempt murder cases.

Year on year, the percentage of attempt murders that are domestic in nature appears to be consistent (15-17%) with exception of 2017 where there was quite a substantial decrease in domestic attempt murders with only 25 recorded (12%).

	Attempt Murders	Domestic Attempt Murders	Percentage
2015	274	45	16%
2016	219	37	17%
2017	214	25	12%
2018	284	47	17%
2019	260	40	15%
2020	249	39	16%
Total	1500	233	16%

Table 6-1. - Attempt murder vs domestic attempt murder percentage representation

Comparing the annual average of attempt murders and domestic attempt murders from 2015-2020, P Division remains the highest. Comparing the percentage of all attempt murders that are marked domestic, P Division is on par with J, C and A Divisions. Therefore P Division is not an outlier.

It is noted that G Division, which has the highest average in overall attempt murders, has a comparatively low percentage of domestic attempt murders.

	Attempt murders	Domestic Attempt Murders	Percentage
Р	25.67	7.00	27%
J	17.33	4.33	25%
С	17.00	4.00	24%
А	25.67	5.83	23%
Ν	10.17	2.00	20%
V	1.80	0.33	19%
U	9.67	1.67	17%
К	20.50	3.50	17%
D	10.00	1.50	15%
E	24.00	3.17	13%
Q	22.00	2.67	12%
G	58.00	3.33	6%
L	8.50	0.17	2%

Table 6-2. - Average of all attempt murders and domestic attempt murders between 2015 and 2020

To highlight the most affected divisions with domestic attempt murder, both 5 year average (2015 to 2019) and 2020 cases were calculated in relation to 100.000 people. As can be seen

from below chart, P Division stands out with lower levels of population and higher rate of domestic attempt murders.

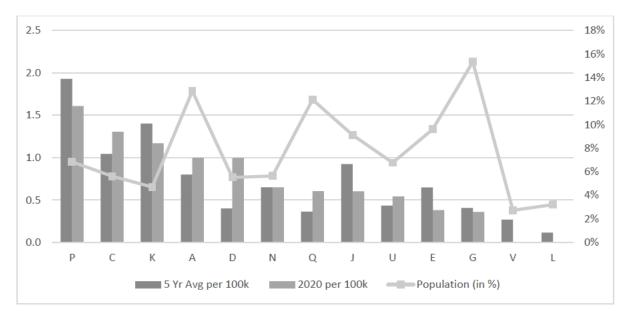


Table 6-3. - Domestic attempt murder cases per 100.000 accompanied with population percentage⁴

While overall numbers are high for P Division, the proportion of attempt murder that is domestic in nature is similar to J, C and A Divisions.

Data for 2020 shows that most cases were recorded in A and P Divisions, seven and six respectively, followed by C and Q with four each. L and V Divisions recorded cases no cases.

Div.	5 Yr Avg (2015-19)	2020 cases	5 Yr Avg (2015-19) per 100k	2020 cases per 100k	Total population	% of total population
Α	5.6	7	0.8	1.0	701900	13%
С	3.2	4	1.0	1.3	306640	6%
D	1.2	3	0.4	1.0	301270	6%
E	3.4	2	0.6	0.4	524930	10%
G	3.4	3	0.4	0.4	837290	15%
J	4.6	3	0.9	0.6	498160	9%
Κ	3.6	3	1.4	1.2	256900	5%
L	0.2	0	0.1	0.0	174800	3%
Ν	2	2	0.6	0.6	307740	6%
Р	7.2	6	1.9	1.6	373550	7%
Q	2.4	4	0.4	0.6	661900	12%

⁴ Population data was taken from National Records of Scotland -

https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-2019

U	1.6	2	0.4	0.5	369360	7%
V	0.4	0	0.3	0.0	148860	3%
Total	38.8	39	0.7	0.7	5463300	100%

Table 6-4. - Comparison of data between years per population

Both A and P Division results are disproportionally high. For comparison A Division represents 13% of the whole Scottish population and recorded seven crimes. G Division represents 15% of the population and recorded only 3 crimes.

P Division on the other hand represents only 7% of the population, yet with six cases of domestic attempt murder this is the highest per capita proportion. Further looking at past six years of data, P division also has the highest average rates driven by years 2015 and 2018 with 10 and 12 cases respectively.

Data for L and V Divisions are showing few cases in the last six years. This may be expected based on each of the two divisions representing only 3% of the overall population.

6.1.1. Deprived vs less deprived areas

Taking location data of the 2020 domestic attempt murders and plotting them on the SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) database shows that majority of cases (69%) happened in more deprived areas, of which 28% happened in 1st and 2nd decile.

SIMD 2020 Decile	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	Total
Crimes	7	4	7	1	8	5	3	2	2	39
Percentage	18%	10%	18%	3%	21%	13%	8%	5%	5%	100%

Table 6-5. - SIMD data for Domestic Attempt Murders in 2020 based on location data from iVPD⁵

This is to be expected and has been established through previous violent crimes reports. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has repeatedly found that violence is more likely to happen in more deprived areas.

6.1.2. Private vs Public space

The majority of domestic attempt murders appear to have happened in private spaces / dwellings (87%). Of these, victim's homes represent the vast majority, closely followed by joint home and accused's home. These findings also match with previous research into domestic homicide⁶.

⁵ Please note, due to rounding the percentage value, the sum of all percentages may not equal 100%.

⁶ SCD Strategic Assessment: Domestic Homicide in Scotland (2019 – S38(1)(b) – see pp.13-15

	Total		
Victim's Home	18		
Joint Home (Residence Of Both Victim & Accused)	5		
Accused's Home	7	Private	34
Other Dwelling	3		
Subject's Home	1		
Public Place	2		
Street	2	Public	5
Commercial Premises	1		
Total	39		39

Table 6-6. - iVPD domestic attempt murder data on locus

As will be discussed further below, the majority of perpetrators have previous history of offending, related to violence as well as ongoing domestic abuse.

Due to the majority of domestic attempt murders being perpetrated in private spaces, much of it will not be witnessed by other people except those within the same and/or adjacent homes/households. 535(1)(a)&(b)

6.1.2.1. Comparison with overall violence data

Public 45% 47% 48% 47% 46%		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
	Private	20%	22%	23%	23%	23%	25%
#N/A 35% 30% 30% 30% 30% 29%	Public	45%	47%	48%	47%	47%	46%
	#N/A	35%	30%	30%	30%	30%	29%
Total 100% 100% 100% 100% 100%	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 6-7. - Overall violence data (annual periods from Nov-Oct, excluding N and V division)7

From the overall violence data it can be seen that most criminality happens in public spaces. This is expected due to different types and nature of criminality, compared to domestic abuse and violence which tends to mainly happen behind closed doors.

⁷ The high proportion of #N/A results is due to crime data populating the relevant LocusType field which is used for lookup being truncated. There are approximately 174 such discrepancies across divisions, making it difficult to cleanse the data and hence distorting the complete national breakdown.

6.2. Gender and Age

Figures for the perpetrators and victims of domestic attempt murders between 2015 and 2020 shows that majority of perpetrators are male, however there is a downward trend between 2015 and 2017 and then again between 2018 and 2020.

There has been an increase in female perpetrators over the years from 2017 onwards.

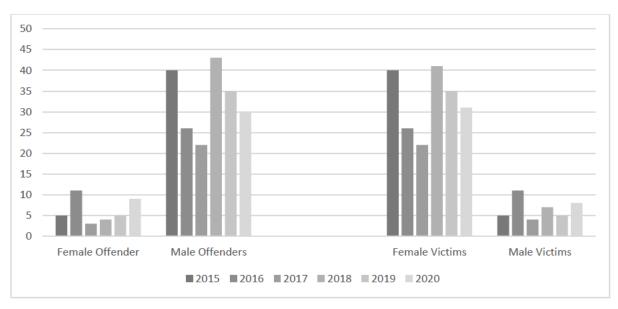


Chart 6-3. - Perpetrators and Victims between 2015 and 2020

		Pe	rpetrat	ors	Victims						
	Female		M	ale	Total		Fer	nale	Male		Total
2015	5	11%	40	89%	45		40	89%	5	11%	45
2016	11	30%	26	70%	37		26	70%	11	30%	37
2017	3	12%	22	88%	25		22	85%	4	15%	26
2018	4	9%	43	91%	47		41	85%	7	15%	48
2019	5	13%	35	88%	40		35	88%	5	13%	40
2020	9	23%	30	77%	39		31	79%	8	21%	39

And the corresponding table to the above chart.

Table 6-8. - Percentage of perpetrators and victims per gender between 2015 and 2020

The split between male and female perpetrators shows that with the exception of two years (2016 and 2020) all other years are between 80 and 90 % committed by males.

It should be noted that 2017 appears to be an unusual year, both in terms of overall attempt murders and even more so for domestic attempt murders, as this is the year that the lowest figures were recorded for both (214 and 25 respectively).

When it comes to victims in domestic attempt murder cases, these are predominately women. Over the period of 2015 to 2020 they represent between 80-90%, with 2016 being an exceptional year with only 70%. The latter is due to the higher proportion of female perpetrators as outlined above.

The Scottish Crime Justice Survey (SCJS), particularly section 9.3 on Partner Abuse, draws similar conclusions as per above numbers, where males are perpetrators in 66% of cases and females in 32% of cases.⁸ It should be noted that the survey is about the partner abuse and not domestic attempt murder, hence why numbers do not match exactly, however, they do give an indication that when it comes to domestic abuse and domestic violence, males are still the predominate perpetrators.

Comparing findings from the domestic attempt murder with Domestic Homicide report, the numbers are very close in percentage difference between male and female perpetrators, namely there were 51 male perpetrators (82%) and 11 female perpetrators (18%).⁹

Looking at the figures from iVPD for the period of 2020, the predominate perpetrators were male, representing over ³/₄ of all perpetrators. The vast majority of victims were female.

Perpetrators were predominately aged between 20 and 39, with numbers then falling after the age of 40 and even more so after the age of 50.

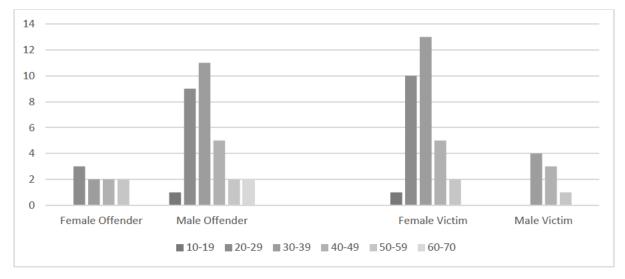


Chart 6-4. - Gender and age of perpetrators and victims

The SJCS reports similar findings regarding the age of perpetrators and victims, where the highest proportion of abuse happened in age groups between 338(1)(b) 10

⁸ Scottish Crime Justice Survey (SCJS) 2019/20, p.173 - <u>https://www.gov.scot/news/scottish-crime-and-justice-survey-201920/</u>

⁹ SCD Strategic Assessment: Domestic Homicide in Scotland (2019 – ^{S38(1)(b)}) – see p.11 ¹⁰ Scottish Crime Justice Survey (SCJS) 2019/20, p.175173 - <u>https://www.gov.scot/news/scottish-</u> <u>crime-and-justice-survey-201920/</u>

S38(1)(b)		
S35(1)(a)&(b), S38(1)(b)		

6.2.1.1. Gender and age within overall violent crime

With the overall violent crime we can see that perpetrators are getting older as age profiles of both complainers and perpetrators have increased between 2014/15 and 2019/20 where the median age of the perpetrators is now 31 years and complainer 34 years.

When considering only 2019/20 the median age of complainers is 34 years. This is primarily due to the high volume of offences categorised as 'Lower Tariff Violence / ASB Offences'. However, the median age of victims of 'Serious Violence' was more pronounced, increasing from 30 to 33 years and for 'Other Group 1' crimes from 26 to 30 years. Other group 1 crimes includes recently added crimes codes related to the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018.

As similar trend is visible also with perpetrators, where the median age increased for Serious Violence (from 26 to 29 years), Other Group 1 crimes (30 to 32 years). The median age of those charged with weapons possession offences increased from 25 to 29 years and drug possession offences from 28 to 30 years.

Some of the factors assessed to have influenced violence age profiles include:



6.3. Nationality and Race

When it comes to ethnicity of perpetrators, they were predominately white, representing 38 of 39. Section 39.

Amongst victims vast majority are white, of which S38(1)(b)

	Population	Population (in %)	Perpe	trators	Vie	ctims
White	5,084,407	96.02%	37	94.87%	38	97.44%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	19,815	0.37%	0	0	0	0
Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British	140,678	2.66%	0	0	1	2.56%
African	29,638	0.56%	0	0	0	0
Caribbean or Black	6,540	0.12%	1	2.56%	0	0
Other ethnic groups	14,325	0.27%	1	2.56%	0	0
Total	5,295,403	100%	39		39	

Table 6-9. – iVPD data and Scotland's Census data on Ethnicity from 2011¹¹

Looking at the 2011 Scotland's Census data (next census is scheduled for 2021), it can be seen that 96% of the population are recorded as white. This correlates with the results from both perpetrators and victims ethnicity data extracted from iVPD.



S35(1)(a)&(b)

¹¹ Scotland's Census 2011: <u>https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/ethnicity-identity-language-and-</u>religion

6.4. Repeat victims and perpetrators

6.4.1. Repeat victims

There is a common interpretation of what constitutes a "repeat victim" when it comes to domestic abuse. Under Home Office definitions, a "*repeat victim*" *is defined where there is "a second or subsequent report by a victim within a rolling 12 month period*".¹³

SafeLives follows with a similar definition of "a 'repeat' as ANY instance of abuse between the same victim and perpetrator(s), within 12 months of the last referral to MARAC" and it further expands on it that "the individual act of abuse does not need to be 'criminal', violent or threatening but should be viewed within the context of a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour". Furthermore, any such "repeat events" can be disclosed to any service including police.¹⁴



Data from iVPD shows that in 2020 there were 12 cases recorded with "repeat victim" marker, namely 10 females and 2 males. However, closer inspection of all 39 victims shows that the number is actually higher, bringing it to 30 repeat victims, of which 25 are female and 5 are male. ^{S35(1)(a)&(b)}

Furthermore, iVPD data shows that Police Scotland was aware of previous domestic abuse in 25 out of 39 cases. In 23 cases the perpetrator has previously been recorded in relationship with domestic abuse of the partner who they ultimately attempted to murder. In 19 cases victims were previously recorded as having suffered violence from perpetrators. In four cases victims were previously sexually assaulted.

In three cases, victims have previously been recorded as children of parents where domestic abuse was reported.

¹³ Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime -

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97 7230/count-flags-apr-2021.pdf - see section F3 Domestic Abuse ¹⁴ SafeLives - https://safelives.org.uk/definition-repeat-marac

	DAQ		MATAC		MARAC		
	Ν	Y		Ν	Y	N	Y
Female	1	24		22	3	15	10
Male	0	5		5	0	4	1
Total	1	29		27	3	19	11

6.4.1.1. DAQ, MARAC and MATAC

Table 6-10. - DAQ, MATAC and MARAC for incidents with repeat victims (all incidents they have been involved in)¹⁵

For those 30 cases of repeat victimisation, DAQ questionnaires have been used with repeat victims through multiple incidents that they have been involved in. Although it should be noted that the victims were not always prepared to provide consent to DAQ questionnaires in all incidents in which they were involved.

Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC)¹⁶ is aimed at perpetrators who present greatest risk of harm and in turn reducing this harm to victims. Although as can be seen, some of the repeat victims tend to be also repeat perpetrators, it appears there were no MATAC referrals for these victims.

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing (MARAC) is aimed at identifying high risk victims of domestic abuse. In case of repeat victims, there have only been 11 referrals according to data on iVPD. It should be noted though that these referrals do not correspond to year 2020, but rather to the whole history of incidents for the repeat victims.

6.4.1.2. Sobriety of repeat victims

	Alc	ohol	Dru	gs
	Ν	Y	Ν	Y
Female	11	14	14	11
Male	0	5	2	3
Total	11	19	16	14

Table 6-11. - Alcohol and Drug use among repeat victims across all incidents they have been involved in

Looking at the history of repeat victims, when it comes to alcohol and drugs, they appear to abuse alcohol more than they do drugs. From cases themselves it can be seen that many arguments and consequently domestic violence started while one or both parties were intoxicated, under influence of drugs or even both.

¹⁶ Police Scotland Intranet – MATAC: S35(1)(a)&(b)

¹⁵ For clarification, data for MATAC and MARAC was taken from the whole history of victims on iVPD and not just for incidents (including domestic attempt murder) in 2020.

	Female	Male	Total
None	7	3	10
Depression	2	0	2
Mental Health : Depression	3	0	3
Mental Health : Self-Harm	1	0	1
Mental Health : Self-Harm : Depression	2	0	2
Mental Health : Suicidal : Depression	0	1	1
Mental Health : Suicidal : Self-Harm	1	0	1
Mental Health : Suicidal : Self-Harm : Depression	5	1	6
Suicidal	1	0	1
Suicidal : Depression	1	0	1
Suicidal : Self-Harm	1	0	1
Suicidal : Self-Harm : Depression	1	0	1
Total	25	5	30

6.4.1.3. Mental health of repeat victims

Table 6-12. - iVPD - Mental health, suicidal tendencies/behaviour, self-harming and depression among repeat victims

When it comes to medical conditions, such as mental health, suicidal thoughts/behaviour, selfharming and depression, just under half of repeat victims have exhibited such conditions.

Mental Health problems with the repeat victims were recorded with 14 victims. Six of these also had suicidal thoughts/behaviour, were self-harming and suffered from depression. The other eight victims have a mix of mental health issues, suicidal thoughts/behaviour, self-harming and depression.

Depression on its own was suffered by two victims, while suicidal thoughts/behaviour on its own experienced only one victim. Three victims have been experiencing a mix of suicidal thoughts/behaviour, self-harming and depression.



It should be noted that this data was taken from all of the incidents victims have been involved in during the years and is not purely from 2020.

6.4.1.4. Victims and history of abusive partners

	1	2	3	4	Total
Female	14	6	3	2	25
Male	5	0	0	0	5
Total	19	6	3	2	30

Table 6-13. - Number of perpetrating partners per repeat victim

There is a distinct difference in repeat victims based on gender. Male repeat victims were only in one abusive relationship, whereas for female repeat victims of domestic attempt murder, although majority had one partner, almost half of them had two or more partners who were abusive to them.

All of the cases from the above table were in relation to domestic abuse. \$30(b)(ii)

Another factor seen in the cases of repeat victims has also been constant breach of bail conditions. These breaches have been carried out by both victims and perpetrators. In many of the cases Police officers found perpetrators hiding within victims addresses when they attended to carry out welfare checks. Even more worrying is the fact that this happened after physical abuse and attempt murder.

6.4.1.5. Victims who are also perpetrators

	Ν	Y	Total
Female	18	7	25
Male	0	5	5
Total	18	12	30

Table 6-14. - Repeat victims who are also repeat perpetrators

In some cases repeat victims show a pattern of repeat offending. While physical violence was not always there, in the majority cases they were perpetrators of breaching bail conditions, such as attending addresses and contacting their (ex-)partners or uploading information on social media in retaliation. In some cases they were abusive and started arguments. What is not clear from the data itself is, if this behaviour stems from what they have suffered as victims and this appears to be their retaliation/revenge and sort of self-defence, or if this is part of their normal behaviour.

6.4.2. Repeat perpetrators

According to the iVPD there have been 16 nominals recorded with Repeat Perpetrator marker. Reading through the iVPD logs for all perpetrators, it is assessed that the actual number with repeat perpetrator marker should be 24 (3 female and 21 male perpetrators).

6.4.2.1. Sobriety of repeat perpetrators

	Alcol	nol	Dr	Drugs		
	N	Y	N	Y		
Female	0	3	3	0		
Male	5	16	6	15		
Total	5	19	9	15		

Table 6-15. - Alcohol and Drug use among repeat perpetrators across all incidents they have been involved in

Reviewing alcohol and drug abuse amongst repeat perpetrators highlights that just over half of them have been abusing alcohol, drugs or both together. As per the crimes recorded in the iVPD, alcohol appeared to be one of the factors which escalated many of the domestic incidents/crimes, be it either where both parties were consuming large amounts of alcohol, or where only perpetrator was consuming alcohol. Although there are few cases where victim was under the influence (of alcohol, drugs or both) and the perpetrator was sober, or at least sobriety of the perpetrator was not recorded during the domestic attempt murder.

6.4.2.2. Mental health of repeat perpetrators

	Female	Male	Total
NONE	0	5	5
Depression	0	2	2
Mental Health	1	0	1
Mental Health : Suicidal : Depression	0	1	1
Mental Health : Suicidal	0	1	1
Mental Health : Suicidal : Self-Harm : Depression	0	6	6
Mental Health : Suicidal : Self-Harm	1	2	3
Self-Harm	1	0	1
Suicidal : Depression	0	3	3
Suicidal	0	1	1
Total	3	21	24

Table 6-16. - iVPD - Mental health, suicidal tendencies/behaviour, self-harming and depression among repeat perpetrators

With regards to medical conditions, such as mental health, self-harm and depression just under half of the repeat perpetrators were suffering from one or multiple of medical conditions.

Most common were mental health issues alongside suicidal thoughts, self-harming and depression.

6.4.2.3. Perpetrators and abusive partners

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Female	7	1	0	1	0	0	9
Male	15	8	2	2	2	1	30
Total	22	9	2	3	2	1	39

Table 6-17. - Number of partners per repeat perpetrator

While a large proportion of perpetrators (over half of them) have been recorded as domestic abuse perpetrator to only one partner, just under half of them have been abusive towards multiple partners. Three of the perpetrators were abusive to between five and six partners.

6.5. Sobriety

Please note the information under this heading of sobriety relates only to the 39 cases of domestic attempt murder in 2020.

Within recorded information it appears that alcohol was the most abused substance when it comes to domestic attempt murders (12 cases), followed by a combination of alcohol and drugs (4 cases) and drugs only (2 cases). In 21 cases information does not appear to be recorded, or alternatively perpetrators have been sober in those cases.

6.6. MO and Weapons

S35(1)(a)&(b)	
S35(1)(a)&(b), S38(1)(b)	
S35(1)(a)&(b), S38(1)(b)	

\$35(1)((a)	&(t))	

S35(1)(a)&(b)

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6.7. Previous history of offending

6.7.1. Criminal History Scotland (CHS)

30 out of 39 perpetrators had a Criminal History Scotland (CHS) record prior to the domestic attempt murder. Offences range from road traffic offences, anti-social behaviour and theft to breach of peace, drugs, assaults and sexual assaults. 19 perpetrators had pending cases at the time they committed the offence and 11 had bail conditions set on them.

25 perpetrators had a previous history of violent offences. 19 perpetrators also had previous domestic related offences.

Domestic related offences include amongst others threatening and abusive behaviour, violence, such as assaults (including injury and permanent impairment), sexual assault (including rape).

Eight perpetrators had no previous records on CHS.

6.7.2. Police National Computer (PNC)

33 out of 39 perpetrators had a record on the Police National Computer (PNC) prior to the domestic attempt murder. Similar to CHS, offences are in the same range, with the difference being that 5 perpetrators have previous convictions in England, ^{S33(1)(b)}

. 18 perpetrators had pending cases at the time of committing the offence.

27 perpetrators had a previous history of violent offences. 19 perpetrators also had previous domestic related offences.

Domestic related offences include amongst others threatening and abusive behaviour, violence, such as assaults (including injury and permanent impairment), sexual assault (including rape).

Six perpetrators had no previous records on PNC.

6.7.3. Scottish Intelligence Database (SID)



6.7.4. interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD)

32 perpetrators had a record on the interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD) prior to the domestic attempt murder. Information ranges from incidents when they were young, to child welfare, domestic abuse, suicidal tendencies and mental health problems.

26 perpetrators had a previous history of domestic related offences.

Domestic related offences include amongst others threatening and abusive behaviour, violence, such as assaults (including injury and permanent impairment), sexual assault (including rape).

Seven perpetrators had no previous records on iVPD.

7. Key Risk Factors

Reading through crime reports and intelligence on victims and perpetrators there are some findings that appear to be prevalent. From all of the recorded information available on Police Scotland systems, the following are key risks for domestic attempt murder:

- The majority of victims are female.
- The majority of perpetrators are male.
- The majority of crimes happen in more deprived areas.
 - Sometimes even small amounts of money or hiding a bottle of alcohol appears to have caused great rifts between victims and perpetrators.
- The majority of crimes happened in private / domestic space.
- In majority of crimes, one or both parties, were under influence of alcohol or drugs or in some cases even both.
- S30(b)(ii)
- Many perpetrators and victims have a history of being victims or perpetrators of variety of offences, such as road traffic, domestic abuse and assaults, serious assaults and drug related offences.
- In all 39 cases where there were bail conditions set in the past, none of the victims or perpetrators appeared to follow them and they were often found in each other's company, some victims even willingly ignored them or demanded through their solicitors for these to be lifted.
- S35(1)(a)&(b)
- S30(b)(ii)

8. Conclusion

The findings of this Domestic Attempt Murder report closely follow similar conclusions of the Domestic Homicide report.¹⁸ While the crime itself is different, a lot of the same facts are present there. There is however a small exception that requires further research into it. This relates to the higher percentage of domestic attempt murders recorded in P division compared to other divisions. Further research could establish why this is the case in P division and how to best tackle it to reduce this in the future.

From the data itself it can be seen that similar to domestic abuse, the majority of these crimes are happening in private spaces, ^{S35(1)(a)&(b)}

Similar, again, to the Domestic Homicide report, Police Scotland needs to work closely with "public sector agencies and 3rd sector organisations working together to make a real impact".¹⁹

From iVPD ^{S35(1)(a)&(b)} it is apparent that victims have not always reported all of the domestic abuse incidents and assaults, be it due to fear of repercussions or in some cases even due to what appeared to be a normalisation of domestic abuse as a normal relationship dynamics.

Due to the above it is important to find ways of intervening earlier on where possible alongside with identifying victims and perpetrators and providing them with the right support at the earliest possible stage.

To further improve the situation and minimise domestic abuse any incidents with a domestic marker should be closely monitored in partnership with other agencies and organisations and communicated on an ongoing basis. Police Scotland should additionally monitor and revise on at least an annual basis how incidents and crimes with domestic marker have been dealt with.

One possible model to follow would be Massachusetts model, which has shown some positive results in reducing violent domestic crimes. Police in Massachusetts closely works with the so called "Domestic Violence High-Risk Team" as well as "with hospitals, health care providers, prosecutors, the courts, and even the state legislature, to prevent domestic violence homicide".²⁰

¹⁸ SCD Strategic Assessment: Domestic Homicide in Scotland (2019 – ^{S38(1)(b)}) – see p. 22 ¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Policinginsight – Expand the Massachusetts Domestic Violence High-Risk Response Model (Expand the Massachusetts Domestic Violence High-Risk Response Model - Policing Insight – Requires login) – see also Appendix III. of this report.

9. Recommendations

Alongside the fact that victims fail to report domestic abuse S30(b)(ii)

. For short and long term solution it should be considered

to provide following:

Divisions

• Based on the data, P Division should be looked at closely to understand why domestic attempt murder is higher there than in the rest of Scotland.

Education

- In partnership with other agencies and organisations create campaigns which would be carried out in schools, colleges and universities to better educate children and students on domestic abuse (psychological and physical) and how such relationships cannot be normalised. Giving them knowledge to spot such behaviour as well as providing them with tools to deal with it, such as amongst others, online portals, personal consultations or a hotline to further discuss or report such matters.
 - One aspect that needs to be considered and raised during such awareness programmes is to make sure that people are told if they have been victim of, or witnessed such behaviour, it is nothing to be ashamed of, as it is not their fault, or else risk that victims and witnesses may not come forward to the authorities.
- Run campaigns in media in collaboration with other agencies and organisations to further raise awareness of domestic abuse (both psychological and physical), providing them with tools where they can report such behaviour or to further discuss it.

Collaboration

• The Massachusetts model²¹ should be closely analysed and discussions should be made with relevant agencies and organisations within Scotland how such model could be implemented in Scotland

With above recommendation in regards to Education and Collaboration, it should be noted that a major part in this is also ongoing information sharing on victims and perpetrators in order to be able to provide the correct safeguards in place for the victims as well as to try and prevent perpetrators from re-offending.

²¹ Policinginsight – Expand the Massachusetts Domestic Violence High-Risk Response Model (Expand the Massachusetts Domestic Violence High-Risk Response Model - Policing Insight – Requires login) – see also Appendix III. of this report.

In addition to above, it should be noted that recommendations from the Domestic Homicide report should also still be considered.²² They have been added below for ease of use:

Prevention

- As highlighted in this report some victims and perpetrators have complex issues including mental health illness, substance and alcohol abuse and violent behaviour. Police Scotland should work with voluntary sector partners to identify a framework of service provision and local support services to ensure police officers are aware of available resources (Medium Term)
- In order to ensure every victim at high risk from serious harm or homicide can access support and safety planning, MARACs are required across all local authorities in Scotland. To achieve this, Police Scotland should work alongside local authorities to implement the MARAC process in the remaining areas - ^{S35(1)(a)&(b)}
- Police Scotland and partners to consider carrying out research into the circumstances leading up to domestic homicides and the triggers which cause them by interviewing perpetrators (Long Term)
- Establish a short life working group involving key stakeholders to address the introduction of Multi-Agency Domestic Homicide Reviews and ensure consensus on the way forward. Membership should include Police Scotland ACC Crime and Protection, COPFS National Prosecutor for Domestic Abuse, Head of Service ASSIST, CEO Scottish Women's Aid, VAW Coordinator, Improvement Service Social Work Scotland and representatives from the NHS (GPs, mental health, A&E) and Education (child and adult education) (Short Term)

Intelligence

- Public awareness campaign around the dynamics of domestic abuse, coercive control and specialist support services. Campaigns should challenge victim blaming attitudes and raise awareness of third party reporting (Long Term)
- Review information sharing protocols and ensure that there is appropriate means to record domestic abuse incidents in order to identify repeat incidents and patterns of behaviour (Medium Term)
- Consider options for enhancing multi-agency information sharing, both intra-agency and across local boundaries and establish a defined gateway through which information sharing can take place in law (Medium Term)

•	S35(1)(a)&(b)		

²² SCD Strategic Assessment: Domestic Homicide in Scotland (2019 – S38(1)(b)) – see p. 23

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S35(1)(a)&(b)

 DACU to liaise with community officers, local authority liaison officers and campus constables to engage with the public and their colleagues ^{S35(1)(a)&(b)}

(Medium Term)

Enforcement

 DACU should work with the Scottish Police College and partner agencies to ensure frontline officers are trained in risk identification, identifying patterns of abusive behaviour and understand the risks around coercive control. Additional training for supervisors and specialist officers should be provided to conduct more detailed risk assessment and reinforce the need for evidence gathering to build a case against serial perpetrators (Long Term)

10. Appendix I. - Tables

Below you can find tables referenced in the chapters of this report.

10.1. Divisions

ScOMIS	Α	С	D	E	G	J	K	L	Ν	Р	Q	U	V	Total
2015	24	27	10	24	55	22	31	10	16	19	22	12	2	274
2016	20	13	8	34	37	23	17	9	4	27	21	6	0	219
2017	27	10	12	17	55	15	19	12	8	19	11	7	2	214
2018	25	20	13	21	71	12	20	5	13	37	33	11	3	284
2019	22	16	11	25	72	16	14	8	9	30	25	11	1	260
2020	36	16	6	23	58	16	22	7	11	22	20	11	1	249
Total	154	102	60	144	348	104	123	51	61	154	132	58	9	1500

 Table 10-1. - ScOMIS attempt murder data between 2015 and 2020

VPD ²³	Α	С	D	E	G	J	K	L	Ν	Р	Q	U	V	Total
2015	4	5	0	4	2	5	8	1	5	10	1	0	0	45
2016	6	2	1	3	4	9	2	0	2	4	3	1	0	37
2017	6	0	1	5	2	4	1	0	1	5	0	0	0	25
2018	6	5	4	1	4	1	5	0	1	12	4	2	2	47
2019	6	4	0	4	5	4	2	0	1	5	4	5	0	40
2020	7	4	3	2	3	3	3	0	2	6	4	2	0	39
Total	35	20	9	19	20	26	21	1	12	42	16	10	2	233

Table 10-2. – iVPD - domestic attempt murder data between 2015 and 2020

	Α	С	D	E	G	J	K	L	Ν	Р	Q	U	V	Total
Pop.	13 %	6%	6%	10 %	15 %	9%	5%	3%	6%	7%	12 %	7%	3%	100%

Table 10-3. - NRS Scotland - Mid-2019 Population Estimates²⁴

 ²³ iVPD data still records B division data. B division has merged with A division. To keep results uniform all B division data from iVPD has been merged with A division data.
 ²⁴ National Records of Scotland - <u>https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2019
</u>

Div.	5 Yr Avg (2015-19)	2020 cases	5 Yr Avg (2015-19) per 100k	2020 cases per 100k	Total population	% of total population
Α	5.6	7	0.8	1.0	701900	13%
С	3.2	4	1.0	1.3	306640	6%
D	1.2	3	0.4	1.0	301270	6%
E	3.4	2	0.6	0.4	524930	10%
G	3.4	3	0.4	0.4	837290	15%
J	4.6	3	0.9	0.6	498160	9%
K	3.6	3	1.4	1.2	256900	5%
L	0.2	0	0.1	0.0	174800	3%
Ν	2	2	0.6	0.6	307740	6%
Ρ	7.2	6	1.9	1.6	373550	7%
Q	2.4	4	0.4	0.6	661900	12%
U	1.6	2	0.4	0.5	369360	7%
V	0.4	0	0.3	0.0	148860	3%
Total	38.8	39	0.7	0.7	5463300	100%

Table 10-4. - Comparison of data between years per population

Divisions	Р	С	K	Α	D	Ν	Q	J	U	E	G	L	V
5 Yr Avg (2015-19)	1.9	1.0	1.4	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.9	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.3
2020	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
2020									0.5	0.4	0.4	0.0	0

Table 10-5. – Cases per 100.000 people sorted from high to low for 2020

10.2. Gender and Age

Perpetrators	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-70	Total
Female	0	3	2	2	2	0	9
Male	1	9	11	5	2	2	30
Total	1	12	13	7	4	2	39

Table 10-6. - VPD domestic attempt murder data on perpetrators sorted by age groups

Victims	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	Total
Female	1	10	13	5	2	31
Male	0	0	4	3	1	8
Total	1	10	17	8	3	39

Table 10-7. - VPD domestic attempt murder data on victims sorted by age groups

10.3. Nationality and Race

Perpetrators	African	Other White	Unknown	White British	White English	White Irish	White Polish	White Scottish	Grand Total
Female	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	5	9
Male	1	0	1	4	1	0	1	22	30
Grand Total	1	1	1	6	1	1	1	27	39

Table 10-8. - iVPD domestic attempt murder data on ethnicity of perpetrators

Victims	Chinese	Other White	White British	White Polish	White Scottish	Grand Total
Female	1	1	8	1	20	31
Male	0	1	0	0	7	8
Grand Total	1	2	8	1	27	39

Table 10-9. - iVPD domestic attempt murder data on ethnicity of victims

10.4. Repeat victims and perpetrators

Repeat Victims	N	Y	Total
Female	6	25	31
Male	3	5	8
Total	9	30	39

Table 10-10. - VPD data on repeat victims (with and without repeat victim marker)

10.5. Sobriety

	Total
Alcohol	12
Alcohol : Drugs	4
Drugs	2
N/A	21
Total	39

Table 10-11. - Sobriety levels of perpetrators extracted from iVPD incident data

10.6. MO and Weapons

	Female	Male	Total
S35(1)(a)&(b)	1	1	2
	7	6	13
		1	1
		1	1
	1	1	2
		1	1
		1	1
		7	7
		2	2
		5	5
		1	1
		1	1
		1	1
		1	1
Total	9	30	39

Table 10-12. - iVPD - Table of MO and Weapons used during Domestic Attempt Murder

11. Appendix II. - DAQ Questionnaire

Domestic Abuse Questions (DAQ)25

All of the Domestic Abuse Questions MUST be asked for every victim of Domestic Abuse.

All replies must be recorded within a Police Notebook.

(High risk questions are in BOLD)

- Q1. Has the current incident resulted in injury?
- Q2. Are you very frightened?
- Q3. What are you afraid of?

Q4. Do you feel isolated from family/friends i.e. does the perpetrator try to stop you from seeing friends/family/doctor or others?

Q5. Are you feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts?

Q6. Have you separated or tried to separate from the perpetrator within the past year?

Q7. Is there conflict over child contact?

Q8. Does the perpetrator constantly text, call, contact, follow, stalk or harass you? (If yes ask the following additional questions)

- Is the victim very frightened?
- Is there previous domestic abuse and harassment history?
- Has the perpetrator vandalised or destroyed property?
- Has the perpetrator turned up unannounced more than 3 times a week?
- Is the perpetrator following the victim or loitering near the victim?
- Has the perpetrator threatened physical or sexual violence?
- Has the perpetrator been harassing any third party since harassment began? i.e. family, friends, colleagues
- Has the perpetrator acted violently to anyone else during the stalking incident?
- Has the perpetrator engaged others to help?
- Is the perpetrator abusing alcohol/drugs?
- Has the perpetrator been violent in the past?

Q9. Are you pregnant or have you recently had a baby in the past 18 months?

Q10. Are there any children, stepchildren that are not the perpetrator's in the household, or are there other dependants in the household (i.e. older relative)?

Q11. Has the perpetrator ever hurt the children?

Q12. Has the perpetrator ever threatened to hurt or kill the children?

S35(1)(a)&(b)

²⁵ Police Scotland – Domestic Abuse Questions (DAQ)

Q13. Is the abuse happening more often?

Q14. Is the abuse getting worse?

Q15. Does the perpetrator try to control everything you do and/or are they excessively jealous?

Q16. Has the perpetrator ever used weapons or objects to hurt you?

Q17. Has the perpetrator ever threatened to kill you or someone else and do you believe them?

Q18. Has the perpetrator ever attempted to strangle/choke/suffocate/drown you?

Q19. Does the perpetrator do or say things of a sexual nature that make you feel bad or that physically hurt you or someone else or that you didn't want to do or happen to you?

Q20. Is there any other person who has threatened you or who you are afraid of? (If yes ask the following additional questions as this may be an extended feature of family abuse and may occur for example in the Traveller Community or in cases of Honour Based Abuse)

- Is the victim truanting or being prevented from attending education or employment?
- Is there evidence of self harm?
- Is the victim being kept at home or are their behaviours/activities being policed by family?
- Is the victim worried that they will be forced to marry against their will?
- Is the victim fearful of being taken?
- Is the victim believed to be in a relationship that is not approved of?
- Is the victim attempting to leave a relationship?
- Are there threats that children will be taken away or threats that the victim will not see their siblings?
- Are there threats to hurt or kill the victim?

Q21. Do you know if the perpetrator has hurt anyone else?

Q22. Has the perpetrator ever mistreated an animal or the family pet?

Q23. Are there any financial issues? For example, are you dependent on the perpetrator for money/have they recently lost their job/other financial issues?

Q24. Has the perpetrator had problems in the past year with drugs (prescription or other), alcohol or mental health leading to problems in leading a normal life?

Q25. Has the perpetrator ever threatened or attempted suicide?

Q26. Has the perpetrator ever breached bail/an Order and/or agreement for when they can see you and/or the children?

Q27. Do you know if the perpetrator has ever been in trouble with the police or has a criminal history?

12. Appendix III. - The Massachusetts Model²⁶ (Policinginsight article)

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