



<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Complaints and Conduct Committee</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>4 September 2025</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>Online</b>
<b>Title of Paper</b>	<b>Police Scotland Professional Boundaries – Review of Police Perpetrated Domestic Abuse</b>
<b>Presented By</b>	<b>ACC Lynn Ratcliff, CS Helen Harrison</b>
<b>Recommendation to Members</b>	<b>For Discussion</b>
<b>Appendix Attached</b>	<b>No</b>

## PURPOSE

To provide the SPA Complaints & Conduct Committee with an update on progression of the Recommendations of the 2024 review conducted into Police Perpetrated Domestic Abuse.

Members are invited to discuss the content of this report.

## 1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Following the last presentation of Police Scotland Professional Boundaries – Police Perpetrated Domestic Abuse to this committee on 5 September 2024, a collation of recorded Police Perpetrated Domestic Abuse reported between 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 has been reviewed\*.
- 1.2 During the reporting period there were 140 reports with 99 named perpetrators who are/were Police Officers or Members of Police Staff (MOPS) at the time of the report being made. 125 reports were made against officers (89.3%), and 15 reports were made against MOPS (10.7%).
- 1.3 Of the 140 perpetrators, 113 (80.7%) are male and 31 (19.3%) are female. Female perpetrators who are Police Officers are more likely to be among lower ranks, whilst male perpetrators reach up to the rank of Chief Inspector.
- 1.4 Several perpetrators with repeat reports against them within this reporting period were identified. Of these, 16 were Constable rank, 2 were Sergeant rank, 2 were Inspector rank, 1 was ranked Chief Inspector, 2 were MOPS.
- 1.5 In this reporting period, 4 (2.8%) reports were in relation to sexual offending, 81 (57.9%) were in relation to other domestic related criminality with 55 (39.3%) relating to no crime domestic incidents.
- 1.6 These figures have no significant variance from the previous submission in September 2024, which provided analysis between the period 1 January 2023 – 31 January 2024.

\*=Statistics sourced from iBase

## 2 UPDATE ON PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 In the previous submission in September 2024, the Police Perpetrated Domestic Abuse review yielded 14 recommendations as follows:

No.	Recommendation
1	Enhance Victim Engagement and Support, to ensure consistency and a balance across the Force area.
2	A bespoke document to be created to explain the process of a criminal enquiry and/or Conduct enquiry.
3	Approach external services to establish a single point of contact (SPOC) for victims of PPDA to ensure that

	reporting in this area is maximised and the appropriate information is fed into the organisation
4	Engage with Staff Associations to ensure they also have appropriate procedures in place regarding victims of PPDA who are employed as Members of Police Staff.
5	Reports of PPDA to be reviewed by a specialist trained investigator with the relevant Domestic Abuse Investigation experience and background.
6	Domestic Abuse Investigation Standard Operating Procedure and other such document and/or policy to be updated to include investigating incidents of PPDA.
7	Enhanced training in respect of investigating crimes of PPDA.
8	Bespoke documents and Enquiry logs to be utilised throughout criminal reports of PPDA.
9	SLWG to be implemented to discuss recording mechanisms to ensure that clear and accurate data can be collated for any future review of PPDA.
10	In repeat reports of PPDA, the perpetrator should be appointed a Red, Amber or Green (RAG) status to highlight concerns.
11	Review of current vetting process and performance review of Special Police Constables.
12	Enhanced joint PSD and Public Protection communications internally and externally.
13	All matters involving PPDA criminality to be considered by PSD National Conduct.
14	Ensure the current process to identify the suitably trained area and/or department, taking cognisance of independence and transparency, remains fit for purpose.

2.2 Work is currently ongoing to discharge these recommendations timeously, of which eight remain ongoing. Six of the above recommendations have been discharged due to measures/processes implemented. These include Victim Safety Plans which were introduced nationally by the Domestic Abuse Coordination Unit (DACU) and provide a structure of support and safety for victims at high risk of domestic abuse, a detailed process map for instances of PPDA being developed under VAWG Guidance and a process of all PPDA being reviewed by specialist trained officers in the Domestic Abuse Task Force.

The remaining recommendations are being implemented by ongoing work led by DI Keith Taylor, ACU East Ops, in collaboration with DACU, Training Branch, Volunteer Co-ordination Unit and HR. These

are being overseen by the PSD VAWG Tactical and Operational Working Group which meets every six weeks. The group is chaired by DI Stuart Robinson, ACU North Ops and attended by leaders from a variety of PSD departments who provide expertise and guidance on these actions.

### **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 There are no financial implications in this report.

### **4 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The nature of the matters reported inevitably leads to implications for both individual and wider personnel matters. These are considered on a case-by-case basis to ensure welfare, conduct and both individual and organisational learning opportunities are identified and addressed.

### **5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no legal implications in this report.

### **6 REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 As per item 4.1, each case is assessed for individual and organisational risks. Appropriate action is taken where necessary.

### **7 SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The nature of the data reported in this paper is related to complaints about the police and conduct matters. By its very nature, the subject matter implies a level of negative social, community and equalities impact. By addressing the individual matters and thereafter considering holistically that which has been reported, Police Scotland seeks to mitigate the negative impact of those cases reported.

### **8 COMMUNITY IMPACT**

8.1 As per 7.1.

### **9 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 As per 7.1.

## 10 ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no environmental implications in this report.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss the content of this report.