

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO 2025-26-010

Your request has now been considered and we provide our response to your request below.

You asked:

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

Your request for information has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) and our response is as follows:

- 1. Is it a standard provision or requirement in contacts with third-party providers of relevant services (e.g. domestic abuse service, victim support), for them to use the DASH risk assessment checklist as part of their service?**

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) do not specify within our contracts which risk assessments our service providers use, rather state what activity should be undertaken when working with victims. We do, however, name the Safelives DASH as an option. Please see additional details below for further clarification

- 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**

No, please see above response.

For further information – the OPCC specify within our contracts:

The Contractor's assessment of a victim will include a needs and risk assessment, and the development of an individual tailored support plan based on that assessment. The Contractor will develop, produce and record a Support Plan which will include:

- Risk assessment (including use of specialist risk assessment materials such as Safelives DASH Risk Assessments where appropriate)
- A full range of safety options to protect victims from further harm
- Victim's specific individual needs and requirements
- Documentation of victim input, and agreement with measurable victim centered goals
- Referrals and/or advocacy to other agencies/services
- Record of the victim's preference regarding restorative justice options where appropriate
- The needs assessment process should understand the background of the Service User, identify any access or communication needs to be addressed in the delivery of the Service to the Service User e.g. translation or adjustments to access meeting places. As such, demographic data should be captured as part of assessment to inform delivery of the care plan, and the provider should ensure that staff are suitably skilled and confident in obtaining and using this information.