



Ministry
of Justice

Rt Hon Edward Argar MP
Minister of State

Ms. Lorraine Harris
Area Coroner for the County of the East Riding of Yorkshire and City of
Kingston Upon Hull
The Guildhall, Alfred Gelder Street
Kingston Upon Hull
HU1 2AA

1st December 2022

Dear Ms Harris,

REGULATION 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS – JESSICA LOUISE LAVERACK

Thank you for your Report to Prevent Future Deaths and the supporting findings of fact that you sent to the Justice Secretary on 28th June 2022. I am responding as the MoJ Minister for Victims. I apologise for the significant delay in acknowledging receipt and responding to your very comprehensive report into this terrible and tragic case.

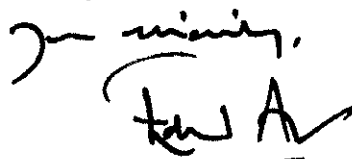
Tackling domestic abuse remains a priority for this government. Alongside implementing the final measures in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, we are working with the Home Office to prioritise a number of commitments in the Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan including investing over £230 million of cross-Government funding into tackling this heinous crime. This includes over £140 million for supporting victims and over £81 million for tackling perpetrators. £47 million of this has been ringfenced over three years for community-based services to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Responsibility for the majority of the concerns raised in your report sits with the Home Office and Department of Health and Social Care and we have seen and support the response that the Home Office sent you on 23rd August. However, we have separately considered the third concern in your Report where you refer to a lack of information sharing between agencies, including no singular database for all agencies to input common concerns and a lack of robust policy of information sharing regarding both suicidal ideation, self-harm as well as identification of the vulnerable.

It is not clear whether this particular case reached court, but I can confirm that MoJ is invited to contribute at Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) whenever the MARAC is in relation to a perpetrator or victim that we are working with. MoJ contributions might include Probation Officers and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors who may have intelligence that could be shared with specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors, sharing information on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, probation, health, child protection, housing practitioners. We have recently done some work to improve probation staff awareness and understanding of MARAC and you may be interested to learn that we have also recently published a draft Victims Bill, which will improve the support offered to victims - including through strengthening the roles of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors.

We are also continuing to work with the Home Office to explore ways to actively manage the most harmful perpetrators, including through considering the creation of a register of domestic abuse offenders.

Thank you for sighting the Justice Secretary on your report and I can reassure you that we continue to work very closely with the Home Office and the Department for Health and Social Care to tackle the perpetrators and support the victims of this devastating crime, including where they are taking forward recommendations in your report where they are the lead department.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Argar', written in a cursive style.

RT HON EDWARD ARGAR MP