

Louise Hunt
Senior Coroner
The Birmingham and Solihull Coroner's Court
Steelhouse Lane
Birmingham
B4 6BJ

19 December 2022

Dear Ms Hunt

Regarding Raneem Oudeh and Khaola Saleem

We were shocked and saddened to read the circumstances of the murders of Raneem Oudeh and Khaola Saleem, on behalf of everyone at the College of Policing, our sympathies and thoughts are with their families and friends. Thank you for your work to ensure lessons are learned and for identifying matters of concern.

These incidents took place between 2015 and 2018. The offence of coercive and controlling behaviour was introduced in December 2015 and policing is continuing to make greater use of this law. The College is committed to working with policing to improve responses to domestic abuse.

Following a critical report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in 2014 regarding policing and domestic abuse, the College undertook two key pieces of work.

Domestic Abuse (DA) Training

The HMIC report had found unacceptable variations across forces in the way that DA training was created and delivered in police forces. The College, as a new organisation, had adopted the approach of its predecessor body, the National Policing Improvement Agency, and set learning objectives for forces to follow. At this time, the College did not create any content for forces to use in their training and did not prescribe or oversee the method for delivering the learning objectives. HMIC found that this led to different levels of service.

In response, the College worked with practitioners and DA charities to create a training package for police responders. This package is called 'DA Matters'. It is a daylong training course, focusing on coercive control. The course features videos of victim/survivors and content from responders' body worn video at the scenes of DA incidents and crimes. DA Matters is delivered by three DA charities under

licence from the College. No other delivery method is permitted. The course was tested and evaluated during development. It has also been subject to post-delivery evaluation and found to lead to increased arrests for coercive control (Policing a new domestic abuse crime: effects of force-wide training on arrests for coercive control, 2021, Brennan I, Myhill A, Tagliaferri G, Tapley J at **Policing a new domestic abuse crime: effects of force-wide training on arrests for coercive control: Policing and Society: Vol 31, No 10 (tandfonline.com)**). West Midlands Police received the package from September 2019 – January 2020 and approximately 750 police responders received that first round of training.

Thirty forces have received this national training and more are scheduled to receive it over the next few months. The Home Office has made funding available so that outstanding forces are encouraged to do so.

Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment tool (DARA)

The same HMIC report also raised concerns about the way in which policing carried out DA risk assessments. The College worked with academic institutions to assess the way in which the most prevalent risk assessment tool at the time was used. The research found that the 2009 DASH model (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honour Based Violence) was inconsistently used and, that the way in which questions in the tool were posed meant that it was not fully effective in eliciting evidence about coercive control. The College worked with academics, DA survivors and practitioners to develop a new risk assessment tool. It is focused on eliciting evidence of coercive control as well as supporting identification of evidence of risk for other types of harm , such as assault. The tool has been piloted and evaluated. It has also been subject to extensive testing in a range of police forces, including West Midlands. West Midlands was one of the pilot forces and continues to use DARA as their risk assessment tool. We are now rolling DARA out to every force in England and Wales.

Much has changed since the tragic murders that were investigated during your Inquests. The College has introduced two far reaching initiatives that support police responders to be better informed when attending DA incidents and crimes. We will continue to look for opportunities to support policing to improve performance in relation to all vulnerable people and our current focus is on violence against women and girls. Work in this area will build on the two initiatives set out above to make women and girls safer.

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive Officer
College of Policing

