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Date: 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024

HHJ Goldstone  
Derby and Derbyshire Coroners Court

Via email only

Dear HHJ Goldstone

I am writing in response to the Regulation 28: Report to Prevent Future Deaths dated 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024 following the inquest into the death of Sobhia Tabasim Khan on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in Derbyshire.

Sobhia's death was a tragic incident that robbed her loved ones of a much-loved daughter, sister and friend. At the conclusion of the inquest, Assistant Chief Constable [REDACTED] offered in the media a sincere and unreserved apology to Sobhia's family and friends for any failings of the force, and I would like to take the opportunity to offer my own sincere apology to them at this time.

The Khan family have shown immense dignity since Sobhia's death, and I hope our response shows how the force has worked to improve the management of sexual and violent offenders since 2017 as well as other actions we have taken to protect victims and improve officers' cultural awareness.

In your report, you highlight nine areas of concern (A-I). The areas we understand to be relevant to Derbyshire Constabulary are stated and addressed below:

**C) Police power to arrest where there is a reason to believe a person is at risk of death/serious injury**

There is no specific order or power of arrest where there is reason to believe that a person is at risk of death/serious injury, and this is something that requires national consideration. A letter explaining the circumstances of this case and the context concerning this recommendation has been sent to Assistant Chief Constable [REDACTED] national policing lead for the Management of Sexual Offenders and Violent Offenders (MOSOVO), for his consideration.

However, the force does have powers where there are risks to a known victim, and we have made significant progress in how we protect vulnerable people from harm by strengthening the protection that we can offer. Civil orders such as Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO) and Stalking Protection Orders (SPO) have powers of arrest attached to them so that a perpetrator can be arrested if the conditions are breached. The introduction of dedicated

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operational teams in January 2023 strengthened our capacity to proactively manage the perpetrators who pose the greatest risk of harm. The performance of these teams is monitored through internal governance structures that focus on compliance and quality.

### **G) Over-reliance on self-reporting**

This issue was also highlighted in the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) into this case that took place in 2017, where the following recommendation was made to all agencies involved:

*'To be aware of and receive information and guidance on manipulation by offenders linking to the broader notion of disguised compliance, enabling staff to make further assessment of the behaviours and intention of individuals in an effort to identify and mitigate any such intentions.'*

Since the recommendations from the DHR were received, the force has made several changes with both training and compliance. We have invested in additional training to upskill our officers and staff and equip them with the skills and knowledge to enable them to effectively manage self-reporting and disguised compliance. All officers and staff working in the Management of Sexual and Violent Offenders (MOSOVO) team have completed the College of Policing MOSOVO training course.

Several changes have been made within the MOSOVO team to ensure compliance with national guidelines and Authorised Professional Practice (APP). We have strengthened our supervisory capability by investing in an additional Detective Sergeant within MOSOVO, increasing the number from three to four. This has improved the supervision of the work conducted by the Offender Managers. In addition, the MOSOVO Detective Inspector conducts 10 quality assurance checks each month to monitor compliance with our Standard Operating Procedures.

At the end of 2023, several officers and staff members were trained to deliver the College of Policing MOSOVO training course so that new people joining the team could be trained in-house and equipped with the skills and knowledge from the outset. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) events are held throughout the year in order to refresh the skills of our officers and staff and so that they can share best practice. On a wider level, Vulnerability training was delivered to all frontline officers and staff during 2023 and 2024 and this has included the topics of controlling and coercive behaviour and disguised compliance.

The Offender Managers generally conduct unannounced home visits to perpetrators, double-crewed, as this is recognised best practice to minimise the risk of disguised compliance. We can report that our compliance rates in the last six months are 86% for unannounced visits and 84% for double-crewed attendance. On the occasions of non-compliance, a supervisor will ratify the decision with supporting rationale. In May 2023, we recruited a Digital Media Investigator (DMI) into the MOSOVO team to further strengthen our capability to manage and monitor compliance. The DMI accompanies the Offender Manager on unannounced home visits to proactively conduct checks of digital devices, such as laptops, mobile phones and tablets, to ensure compliance with any conditions of a licence or other order.

### **H) Record keeping**

To record our interactions with offenders within the MOSOVO department, we use a national system called Violent and Sex Offender Register (ViSOR). This provides a national database for the Police and Probation Service to jointly register, risk assess and manage sex, dangerous and violent offenders. ViSOR catalogues an offender's previous risk assessment reports and provides a link to the Police National Computer (PNC), which allows access to an offender's full

criminal record. All officers and staff attend a training course prior to being given access to ViSOR and are expected to adhere to ViSOR operating standards.

Following feedback from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS), we have recently reviewed how we comply with the national ViSOR operating standards in recording Active Risk Management System (ARMS) assessments. We have reviewed our processes in response and adapted our Standard Operating Procedures to ensure that we are compliant and have rectified those that had been incorrectly recorded. The minutes of all Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) meetings are recorded and are subject to scrutiny during the learning reviews conducted by the MAPPA partnership every six months. Additionally, we work with other forces in the region to peer review and scrutinise each other's minutes from MAPPA meetings.

Improving investigations is a key strategic priority and we have a comprehensive programme of activity to raise standards and improve record keeping, led by our Head of Crime, Detective Chief Superintendent [REDACTED]. The importance of record keeping has been reiterated as part of key messaging to frontline officers, staff, and supervisors through their senior management teams and force wide communications.

### **I) Familiarisation of professionals with cultural issues**

All officers and staff embarking on a career in Derbyshire Constabulary now receive training on many cultural aspects, including diversity, equality and inclusion, human rights, the history of policing, the Police Race Action Plan, hate crime, forced marriage, honour-based abuse, and community policing. The force also has a page on our internal intranet site entitled 'Cultural Competence' which has been produced by our Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. It signposts officers and staff to ways in which they can communicate effectively with people and be aware of the cultural differences that may impact their communication with people within those communities.

We have recently revised our Neighbourhood Profiles so that Safer Neighbourhood Teams can capture vital cultural information to enable them to understand the needs of the community and improve their engagement. The profiles outline the demographics of the area and identify key community groups and religious establishments, as well as identifying significant persons within them such as religious leaders, Councillors, headteachers and community workers.

The work and recommendations noted within this report will continue to be progressed and monitored by Detective Chief Superintendent [REDACTED] to ensure that we provide the very best possible service to our many and varied communities and cultures in Derbyshire.

I hope the above response provides you with the necessary assurance of the actions we have taken, and continue to take, since Sobhia's tragic death.

Yours sincerely



**Chief Constable**