




Professor Andrew Harris  
Assistant Coroner for South London



15 December 2025

Dear Professor Harris,

Thank you for sharing the Prevention of Future Deaths (PFD) report concerning the tragic death of Rebekah Arter. I am responding as the Minister responsible for crime and policing.

I would like to express my sincere condolences to Rebekah's loved ones. I was deeply saddened to read the details in your report and cannot imagine the significant impact that her death and the awful experiences she endured leading up to it will have had on those close to her.

I am very sorry to hear about the experiences Rebekah went through as a victim of domestic and sexual abuse, as noted in your report. I recognise the devastating impact these awful crimes can have on their victims. I would like to reassure you that this Government is committed to tackling all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG), including domestic and sexual abuse. We have set out an unprecedented mission to halve VAWG in a decade. Improving policing practice is a key part of this, and we have provided £13.1m this year to establish a new National Centre for VAWG and Public Protection which will help drive consistency nationally, including through the development of specialist training on VAWG to ensure that officers are well equipped to manage offences and provide consistent support to victims.

Our full programme of work to tackle VAWG will be published in our upcoming cross-Government VAWG Strategy. The Strategy will set out concrete actions to prevent violence and abuse, pursue perpetrators, and provide the support to victims that they deserve.

Your report also highlights multiple issues related to Rebekah's then husband, a former police officer, abusing his position. I echo the concerns you raise and am clear that all officers should be held to the highest standards. All members of the public should feel confident in reporting crimes or raising complaints and know that they will be taken seriously and treated with respect when they do.

It is crucial that allegations against police officers, including of VAWG, are handled robustly. Your report notes that Rebekah met her husband as a victim of crime whilst he was a police officer. A police officer abusing their position for a sexual purpose or for the purpose of pursuing an improper emotional relationship is, rightly, a very serious conduct matter. By law, if a force becomes aware of such allegations, they must refer them to the

Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) for consideration. The College of Policing's Guidance on Outcomes in Police Misconduct Proceedings, which was updated in 2022, is also clear that misconduct involving VAWG is unacceptable and sets an expectation as to the seriousness with which it should be treated.

I take these issues extremely seriously, and this Government is implementing a range of reforms in the police misconduct and vetting systems to help ensure that those who commit heinous crimes such as domestic abuse and sexual offences have no place in policing. In spring this year we introduced a set of reforms, including a route to remove those officers who fail to maintain their vetting, and a presumption of dismissal for any officer found to have committed gross misconduct. We are currently working to place vetting standards on a statutory footing and strengthen requirements on forces to suspend officers under investigation for domestic abuse or sexual offences.

You may be aware that the independent Angiolini Inquiry is examining a range of issues in policing and the safety of women so that women, and the wider public, can have confidence that the police are there to protect them. The first report of Part 2 of the Inquiry examined the prevention of sexually motivated crimes against women in public spaces and was published on 2 December 2025. It can be found here: [The Angiolini Inquiry Part 2 First Report: Prevention of sexually motivated crimes against women in public – The Angiolini Inquiry](#). The Government is now carefully considering its findings and recommendations.

The Inquiry will produce a second report under Part 2 next year which will examine a number of other issues relevant to your report. These include the adequacy of measures to identify and manage the risk of VAWG-related misconduct as well as aspects of police culture.

I hope this letter reassures you that there is work taking place at a national level to improve the response to police-perpetrated VAWG. My thoughts remain with Rebekah's family.

Very best wishes



MP

**Minister of State for Policing and Crime**