



Home Office

Minister of State for Policing and
Crime

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His Majesty's Coroner Dr Julian Morris
London Inner South Coroner's Court
London
SE1 1YD

July 2026

Dear Dr Morris,

RESPONSE TO REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

Thank you for your Report to Prevent Future Deaths on 1 May 2026 regarding the unlawful killing of Natasha Hill. I would like to start by extending my deepest condolences to Natasha Hill's family and loved ones for their devastating loss.

Tackling domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation and abuse and violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a top priority for this government and we will treat it as the national emergency that it is. We are working to deliver a cross-government transformative approach to halve VAWG in a decade, underpinned by the new VAWG Strategy.

Thank you for your conduct of the inquest, and your identification of a number of matters of concern, which are set out in the Report. The safeguarding gaps you have identified are important and I am clear that lessons must be learned across Government and beyond.

The Home Office's response to your Report focuses on three matters of concern raised, specifically concerns 3, 4 and 5.

Matter of concern 3

Thought should be given to the creation of a young person's protection by way of creation of an extension to the CAWN for the young person, against the adult creating that safeguarding risk e.g. young person's abuse warning notice.

Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWNs) are a non-statutory tool available to the police to warn suspects that they may be prosecuted, if they persist, for a child abduction offence when there is not enough evidence that a criminal offence is being committed.

CAWNs can be issued by the police to disrupt contact between any potential abductor over the criminal age of responsibility and a child under the age of 16 (the Child Abduction Act 1984), or under 18 years if they are under local authority care (the Children Act 1989). College of Policing guidance requires forces to keep CAWNs under regular review, with a review process scheduled no later than six months after the notice is issued, and decisions on retention or removal taken in line with the Authorised Professional Practice.

Police have a number of powers and tools at their disposal to prevent, disrupt and prosecute child exploitation. CAWNs are one of these tools, but a range of other powers are available to officers, depending on the circumstances in the case, and they are set out

in the Home Office's Child Exploitation Disruption Toolkit [See more here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-exploitation-disruption-toolkit>].

The Child Exploitation Disruption Toolkit supports police, social care and other frontline partners to use a suite of disruption tools to safeguard children and stop offenders. It makes clear that child exploitation cannot be addressed by a single agency working alone, and that effective collaboration, particularly around information sharing, is essential to protecting children and disrupting offending. We continue to keep this framework under review.

Matter of concern 4

The creation of one single national policy for policing and child sexual exploitation following the groundwork laid down by Operation Hydrant and local Forces.

The Home Office is working to create a consistent, victim-centred response to child sexual exploitation, building on progress to date in strengthening the policing response including by the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Taskforce (part of the Hydrant Programme). Below is a list of activity underway which seeks to ensure that police are equipped to respond to CSE in a consistent manner.

We are working with national policing partners to strengthen the response to child sexual exploitation, including group-based child sexual abuse and exploitation, by supporting programmes that improve the policing response across England and Wales. The Government has established the national police operation into group-based child sexual exploitation and abuse, Operation Beaconport, backed by almost £38 million, to improve policing's ability to investigate group-based offending, ensuring a consistent response wherever abuse is reported and better, trauma-informed support for victims and survivors.

The Government also works closely with the College of Policing to develop and maintain its Authorised Professional Practice (APP), which sets out national guidance and clear expectations for how forces identify risk, safeguard victims and pursue offenders.

This year the Home Office is providing £6.1 million in funding to the CSE Taskforce, part of the Hydrant Programme, which was established in 2023 to strengthen the policing response to child sexual exploitation, including group-based child sexual exploitation and abuse. The Taskforce supports police forces through complex investigations, peer reviews, training and operational advice, helping to build capability and improve investigative practice. It also contributes to the development of national policing guidance and training products, including the Authorised Professional Practice (APP).

In addition, the Taskforce helps to share learning and promote effective multi-agency working. Through force reviews, practitioner networks and engagement with safeguarding partners, it supports local areas to improve the identification of risk, information sharing, offender disruption and the safeguarding of children, recognising that tackling CSE requires a coordinated response across agencies.

The Taskforce works closely with the Home Office funded Tackling Organised Exploitation (TOEX) Programme, which uses data and analytics to identify patterns of exploitation, link offending across force boundaries, and help police better connect intelligence so that risks to children are recognised and acted on more effectively. The Home Office is investing £10.7 million in the TOEX Programme in 2026/27.

The Home Office also funds the National Centre for Violence Against Women and Girls and Public Protection (NCVPP), launched in April 2025, to provide national leadership and improve professional practice in the policing response to violence against women and girls, child sexual abuse and wider public protection offences. The Centre is intended to place victims' experiences at the heart of police investigations, deliver improved training

for officers, professionalise public protection work and drive up investigative and operational standards across all police forces.

The Department for Education, in collaboration with the Home Office, are currently consulting on whether to amend the government definition and guidance on child sexual exploitation, working closely with partners including law enforcement, children's safeguarding and policing.

Matter of concern 5

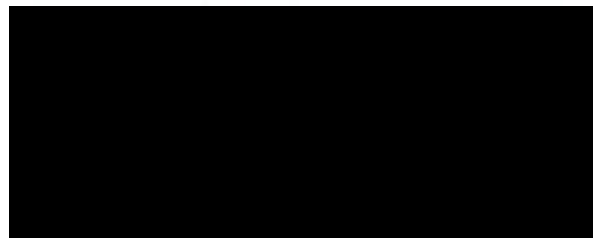
Re safeguarding offender management, the use of VOO's and the creation of POETs/ DAPST and RMUs: Consideration should be given to the creation of one set of criteria with one name whose role it is to cover and create a central guidance.

While Protective Order Enforcement Teams (POETs), Domestic Abuse Problem Solving Teams (DAPSTs) and Risk Management Units (RMUs) are all distinct operational teams within policing and Violent Offender Orders (VOOs) are an important tool, we recognise that they should operate as part of a coherent system. The NCVPP helps bring together learning, guidance and best practice to improve the consistency and quality of the policing response to VAWG and public protection harms. As part of this, the NCVPP is taking forward work in a number of areas linked to risk assessment, offender management, safeguarding and protection orders including:

- Developing updated national guidance on all VAWG protection orders, including offender management, breach response and escalation pathways
- Supporting work to establish Stalking Protection Order (SPO) intensification sites in select police forces
- Improving risk assessment practice by publishing guidance on secondary risk assessments and strengthening information sharing arrangements
- Strengthening the recording and quality of protection order data by clear instructions on entering and maintaining data to police forces
- Supporting more joined-up multi-agency working by developing consistent, improved and evidence-led MARAC and MATAC arrangements

Thank you for raising these important issues in your report. I hope this response has been helpful in setting out our plans to better safeguard victims and prevent devastating cases like this from occurring.

Very best wishes,



Minister of State for Policing and Crime