RESPONSE TO A REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS
REGULATION 29 OF THE CORONERS (INVESTIGATIONS) REGULATIONS 2013

Please do not include any living persons' names in this document, in accordance with the Chief Coroner's PFD Publication Policy (2026).

THIS RESPONSE IS BEING SENT TO:

The Senior Coroner, Emma WHITTING, for the Coroner Area Bedfordshire & Luton in response to a '**REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATH REGULATION 28'** following an investigation into the death of **Sarah Marie ALBONE.**

1.	**RESPONDENT** In line with our duty under Regulation 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013, [redacted] **Secretary of State for the Home Department,** provides this response within 56 days (plus any extension granted) of the date of the Report to Prevent Future Deaths.
2.	**DATE OF RESPONSE** 3rd November 2026
3.	**CONFIRMATION OF CORONER'S MATTERS OF CONCERN** The **MATTERS OF CONCERN** were identified in the report are as follows: As highlighted in the Draft Domestic Homicide Review, as Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) processes are not currently on a statutory footing, there is a potential for financial and capacity shortfalls which prevent MARAC from maintaining reliable case, risk and action management systems, limiting its effectiveness in safeguarding domestic abuse victims.
4.	**DETAILS OF ACTION TAKEN,** how has the concern been addressed. [If no action is proposed please explain why here]. • Effectively managing the risk posed to victims of domestic abuse is an essential element of the Government's ambition to halve violence against women and girls in a decade. • In the Government's Freedom from violence and abuse: a cross-government strategy to build a safer society for women and girls, we set out actions to improve each stage of the risk pathway and equip professionals to better identify, assess and manage risk, and support victims of domestic abuse and other forms of VAWG.

	• As part of this, the Government has committed to producing guidance to support effective multi-agency responses to domestic abuse, including the operation of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs). The guidance will be aimed at relevant agencies, including the police, health services, education providers and children's social care, and will support more consistent identification of risk, information-sharing and safeguarding practice. This will help drive greater consistency and effectiveness in multi-agency responses to domestic abuse. • In addition, we are working with the National Centre for VAWG and Public Protection (NCVPP) and the College of Policing to improve training on assessing and managing VAWG risk for all levels of police officers by 2029. We are achieving this through a range of training programmes for different levels of policing, these include: o The new Firstline Public Protection Programme, currently piloting in 7 police forces, is designed to equip officers with the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to respond effectively to vulnerability, risk and harm by focusing on the first point of contact, where decisions and behaviours have the greatest impact on victims, witnesses, and case outcomes. This newly developed course has a specific module on identifying, assessing and managing risk and taking appropriate safeguarding action. o The new PIP1 Supervisors Programme pilot which has now had over 520 Sergeants complete the course, with delegates reporting increased confidence in supervisory decision-making and risk assessment. o The updated Public Protection and Safeguarding Leadership Programme which seeks to improve policing leaders' response to VAWG crime types. The course prioritises managing risk as a core theme of the course to ensure leaders are more consistently identifying vulnerability, assessing risk and taking the appropriate action to protect victims. • We are also strengthening the evidence base on risk assessment and management, including through work with the charity SafeLives to collect and analyse MARAC data and engage with stakeholders across the domestic abuse sector. This is helping us better understand how professionals from health, social care, education and other agencies engage with MARACs, and where improvements may be needed to support effective multi-agency risk management. • As this programme of work develops, we will consider the issues raised by the coroner regarding the operation of MARACs, including consistency of practice, information-sharing and risk management arrangements.

5.	**DETAILS OF FURTHER ACTION PROPOSED** • The Government recognises that the domestic abuse landscape has evolved significantly since the previous Domestic Abuse statutory guidance was published in 2022. As committed to in the 'Freedom from Violence and Abuse' Strategy, we will update both the Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance and the Coercive and Controlling Behaviour Statutory Guidance to reflect the latest policy and practice. This will include strengthened information on the needs and barriers faced by disabled victims. • The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS, also known as 'Clare's Law') enables the police to disclose information about an individual's abusive or violent behaviour to a victim or potential victim of domestic abuse. • It is ultimately for the police to decide the basis on which information is disclosed. However, we know that there are issues and inconsistencies in the implementation of DVDS. Through the 'Freedom from Violence and Abuse' strategy, the government committed to creating a clearer and more consistent framework for disclosures. We are working closely with the NCVPP to deliver this. • Whilst police operational independence means we are unable to comment on why an application was not made for a Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN) or Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) in this case, the Government is committed to ensuring the right protections are available for victims of domestic abuse at the earliest opportunity. • To strengthen the existing protective order framework, we have been piloting Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Orders (DAPNs and DAPOs) in selected police force and court areas since November 2024. DAPOs provide broader and more flexible protection than DVPOs. Unlike DVPOs, DAPOs are available across the criminal, civil and family courts, can last for as long as the court considers necessary, and can include a range of measures tailored to the risks posed by the perpetrator, including exclusion zones, electronic monitoring, notification requirements and positive requirements such as attendance at behaviour change programmes. DAPOs can also be applied for not only by the police, but by victims and eligible third parties through the family courts, providing additional routes to access protection where appropriate. This government has committed to rollout DAPNs and DAPOs across all police forces and courts in England and Wales, and we are working closely with operational partners to deliver implementation by the end of 2026.

	• The Government is also investing in the local provision of domestic abuse and stalking perpetrator interventions. This includes £53 million over four years (FY2025-2029) to rollout the Drive Project across England and Wales. The Drive Project is a proven response to tackling the highest risk, highest harm, serial perpetrators of domestic abuse. It uses a multi-agency case management approach, alongside dedicated victim support. This is in addition to the £74.5 million Domestic Abuse and Stalking Perpetrator Intervention Fund, which for the first time includes ringfenced funding for interventions for children who use harm. These interventions are an important part of the community response to perpetrators, and seek to support behaviour change, prevent reoffending, and make victims safer. • We are also working to strengthen the support available for all victims of domestic abuse, particularly those who are most vulnerable. The Government is investing over £1 billion to support victims of violence against women and girls over the next Spending Review period, including £550m by the Ministry of Justice into victims' services. The Home Office is also expanding investment into a range of specialist helplines and advocacy services for victims of VAWG, including specialist support for those who face additional barriers to accessing help such as those with a disability. • These services provide trauma-informed emotional and practical support, including safety planning, risk assessment, support to access housing, health, welfare and criminal justice services, and assistance to navigate complex systems. Where concerns about significant harm are identified, providers work within safeguarding frameworks to assess ongoing risk and make referrals to relevant agencies where appropriate. This includes working with local safeguarding partners, adult and children's services, healthcare providers, the police and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) to help ensure victims receive a coordinated response tailored to their needs.
6.	**SIGNATURE**  **Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls**