



# AURORA NEW DAWN

CWJ response  
Super Complaint  
February 2019

Shonagh Dillon – CEO  
February 2019

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Dawn 2019



Aurora New Dawn works across the South East supporting survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence and stalking. Our organisation was founded in 2011. We support approximately 1,600 survivors a year. Our services include:

- Independent Domestic violence Advocacy
- Independent Sexual violence Advocacy
- Stalking advocacy
- Aurora New Dawn DVA cars™
- Armed Forces Advocacy
- IRIS
- Outreach
- Female offender programmes HMP Bronzefield and Send
- Serial and Priority Perpetrator Coordinator (SPP)
- Complex Needs IDVA

1. Failure to arrest for breach of civil injunctions, in particular non-molestation orders, and for breach of restraining orders

"I've had a case where the police have failed to arrest for breach of non mol a few times. Not all the time though but I'm aware the client is really strong and very hot on pushing them to act." (Complex Needs IDVA)

"This happens frequently when the perpetrator cannot be "found" yet they seem to still be able to breach – I think this is down to a lack of resources a lot of the time, but the message to victims is that it doesn't matter and the message to perpetrators is the injunction isn't worth the paper it is written on" – CEO

"We have had real improvement in terms of harassment and stalking in the county however, we did have a case the other day of a stranger stalking case, with high levels of sexual and graphic content being shared with the victim online – this victim was told by a police officer from Sussex Police to get a non-mol. We intervened and complained on behalf of the client and she is now receiving a great service from Sussex." (Stalking service Manager)

2. Failure to utilise Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Domestic Violence Protection Orders;

"I keep stats on whether the police have ever considered or applied for a DVPN/ O. In literally a handful of cases each quarter do the police actually use this measure I know other forces use this regularly but it should be a consideration for every arrest in my view, intimate partner abuse or not." (SPP)

"Total referrals from Southampton and Eastern Hants (Sept-Feb) = 380

DVPN:

Requested – 10 (2.6%)

Issued – 9 (90%)

So when asked for they are often given but the feeling from the advocates are that they are not being used enough or that the officers are unsure how and when they should be requested. Our advocates have had training around this and are pushing for them to be used.

DVPO:

Granted – 5 (51%)” (Community Projects Manager)

3. Failure to apply for restraining orders at point of sentencing (whilst this involves failures on the part of the CPS also, it can result from initial failure by the police to request an order);

N/A

4. Failure to impose bail conditions:
  - a. Where suspects are interviewed as volunteers and not arrested, bail cannot be used;
  - b. Where suspects are interviewed under arrest, release pending further investigation without bail, or release on bail without bail conditions.

4)b “This happens frequently” (DVA car Advocate)

I've also had a client where they fails to put bail conditions in place. They're a complex client with a very complex case and long history of arrests on both parts and dual allocations which is why I think the police fail to act.” (Complex Needs IDVA)

### **Reasons:**

There is an undeniable cultural issue within criminal justice agencies across the country in their attitudes towards VAW. However, there are some pockets of excellent practice and some outstanding officers who want to make a difference to survivors and do.

The major issue we have noticed in the last few years is the lack of police resources and the lack of training. We partner with frontline officers and attend incidents of DA, they are incredibly willing to learn but many have only had piecemeal training, our force area has recently had DA Matters training which has really helped. But in all honesty if the cuts and funding constraints continue for the police the situation for victims and survivors will only get worse.