

Centre for Women's Justice is submitting a super-complaint to HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire & Rescue Services about failures by police to use legal measures which are available and intended to provide protection for women experiencing domestic abuse, sexual violence, harassment, stalking and other forms of male violence

Paladin NSAS (national Stalking Advocacy Service) is a trauma-informed service established to assist high risk victims of stalking in England and Wales. We receive self referrals as well as referrals from local domestic abuse services and Police. Our Team of Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworkers (ISAC's) deal with approximately 2000 cases per year. Involvement varies from one- off advice to intensive case work.

Number of cases looked at	Failure To arrest for Breach of Civil Injunctions – Non- Molestation Order	Failure To arrest for Breach of restraining order	Failure to utilise Domestic Violence Protection Notices and DVPO's	Failure to apply for Restraining Order at point of sentencing (can result from initial failure by Police to request)	Failure to impose Bail conditions – where suspects interviewed as volunteers (when not arrested bail cannot be used)	Suspects interviewed under arrest, released pending further investigation	
						Released pending further investigation without bail	Released on bail with bail conditions
40	16	11	6 potential cases when they could have been used but weren't	5	6	9	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> on some cases there was numerous breaches of non molestation order with no police arrest Police have stated perp wasn't aware of conditions Stated not a breach based on interpretation of wording Frequently we find when there is no technical breach of an Order, however it clearly amounts to a pattern of stalking behaviour Police do not treat as a fresh offence or consider other offence, the response is often left at there is no breach of the order. 					One case client was asked to stop calling the Police by csc as they were receiving safeguarding info shares from police. It was perceived by authorities as a child contact issue.	Frequently we find suspects are not arrested for breach of bail conditions or if arrested released again with same bail and the breach is not looked at as further offences

We only had the opportunity to look at a few cases as its not information we routinely capture that is easily accessible; it required reading through a snapshot of case files. The 40 cases were selected completely at random from the database and included a variety of open and close cases. We purposefully did this so as not to choose just cases with known issues.

We have discussed as a team what we feel the reasons may be for the constant failure to response appropriately by Police

- There is training provided but we feel it hit and miss and not provided to all ranks and all staff including and CPS Direct CPS – needs to be across all so response officers are then supported when they are pursuing cases instead of putting work in then getting shut down at the next stage. Any training needs to be with regular refreshers.
- Resource – they are all dealing with a lot of and don't appear to have the time to deal with the number of incidents they are sent to
- There appears to be no consequences to Police staff when not appropriately dealt with, we repeatedly go to SPOCs to escalate matters, who then may review and request further action as it wasn't initially dealt with appropriately but then there are no consequences to ensure doesn't happen again
- What performance measures are in place for Police Officers? – are they informed of number of incidents they've been to, number of charges, number of convictions –Is this reviewed to assess gaps and identify which officers are investigating further and dealing with incidents appropriately and which officers are just batting down to avoid more work, are good performing officers identified – I know Police were previously criticised for being too target driven but feel now they've gone too far the other way – a balance needs to be reached.
- Police forces generally move specialist officers every few years – Just when you have developed a good working relationship and a good understanding they are moved on and the specialist is lost – in any event there needs to be more officers trained as specialist in Dv and stalking