



Home Office



Easy
Read

Deaths because of domestic abuse

How we find out what has happened



Easy
Read

Easy Read



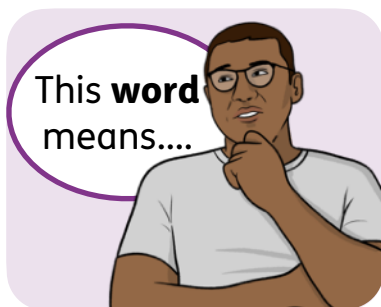
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



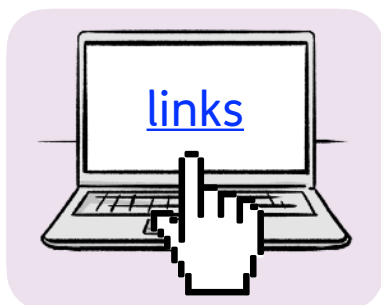
This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



[Blue and underlined](#) words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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About this booklet



This booklet is from the UK Government.



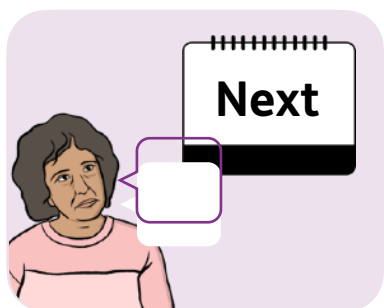
Last year we asked people to answer some questions about **Domestic Homicide Reviews**.



Domestic homicide is when someone is killed by someone they are close to.



A **Domestic Homicide Review** is when we look into why a domestic homicide has happened.



This booklet will tell you what people said about Domestic Homicide Reviews and what we will do next.

Understanding domestic abuse



Domestic abuse is the most common type of violence against women and girls.



We want to understand it so that we can get better at stopping it.



In 2021, we wrote a new law called the Domestic Abuse Act.



Our new law talks about different types of domestic abuse, by different people.



There are lots of different types of domestic abuse.



Domestic abuse is not always physical and violent.

Our new Domestic Abuse Act says that domestic abuse can include:



- Controlling how someone behaves.



- Making someone feel bad.



- Controlling a person's money



Our new Domestic Abuse Act also says that domestic abuse can be done by a person who is 'personally connected' to the victim.

Personally connected can mean:



- They are, or were, married to the person.



- They are, or were, in a **civil partnership** with the person.

A **civil partnership** is a way of making your relationship legal without being married.



- They had agreed to marry or be in a civil partnership with the person.



- They are, or were, in a romantic relationship with the person.



- They are parents to a child with the person or have been in charge of looking after a child with the person.



Personally connected can also mean they are a family member of the person.



This is how the Domestic Abuse Act describes domestic abuse.

Understanding domestic homicide



Domestic homicides usually happen to people who are victims of domestic abuse.



In 2004, the Government created Domestic Homicide Reviews.

In a Domestic Homicide Review, different organisations work together to:



- Pay attention to each victim.



- Think about how other victims of domestic abuse could be supported better.

At the moment, a Domestic Homicide Review is only done when someone dies because of violence, abuse or neglect done by:



- A family member.



- Someone they are or were in a relationship with.



- Someone they live with.



Neglect is when someone does not look after you properly

Domestic Homicide Reviews are also done when:



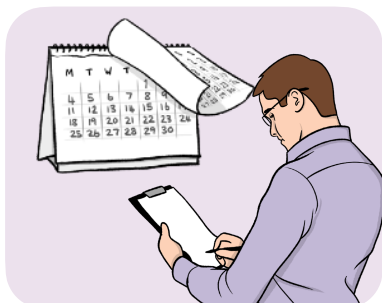
- A victim of domestic abuse takes their own life - this is called suicide.



- A victim of domestic abuse dies for reasons that we can not explain.

What we asked

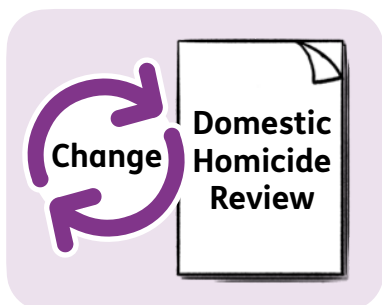
We wanted to know whether people think that we should change:



- When a Domestic Homicide Review should be done.



This would mean Domestic Homicide Reviews are done for deaths that are linked to all types of abuse we talk about in the Domestic Abuse Act.



- The name of Domestic Homicide Reviews.

Who we asked

We wanted to hear from lots of different people, including:



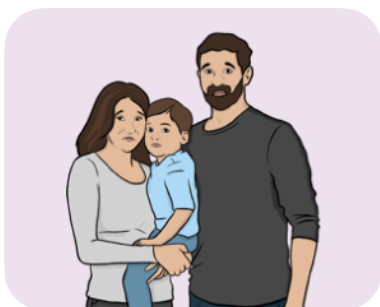
- Organisations that work to stop domestic abuse.



- Services that support people who are victims of domestic abuse.



- Friends or family of someone who died because of domestic homicide.

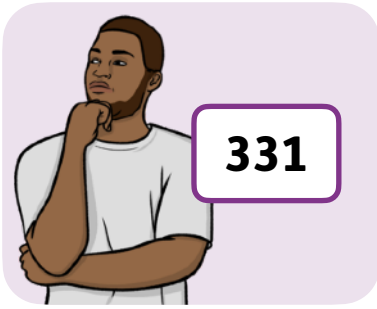


- Friends or family of someone who died because of domestic abuse, but whose death was not a domestic homicide.



We wanted to hear from people who lived in England and Wales.

Who answered



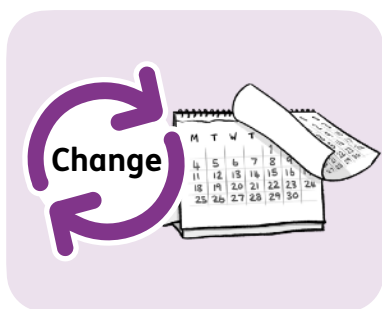
331 people told us what they thought.



222 were answering for organisations.
Most of these organisations were local councils.

What we found out

When Domestic Homicide Reviews are done



We asked people whether we should change when a Domestic Homicide Review is done.



The change would mean that Domestic Homicide Reviews are done for all types of deaths that are linked to domestic abuse.

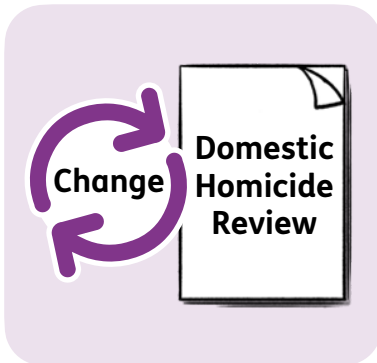


This includes all the types of domestic abuse that are now included in our new Domestic Abuse Act.



Most people said that we should change when a Domestic Homicide Review is done.

Naming Domestic Homicide Reviews



We also asked people whether we should change the name of Domestic Homicide Reviews so that it includes all types of deaths that are linked to domestic abuse, like:



- When a victim of domestic abuse takes their own life.

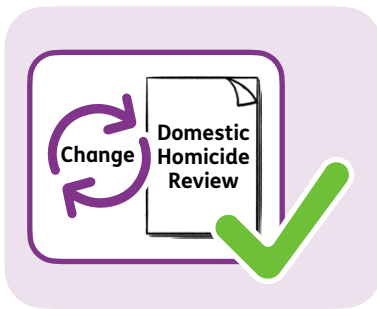


- When a victim of domestic abuse dies for reasons that we can not explain.

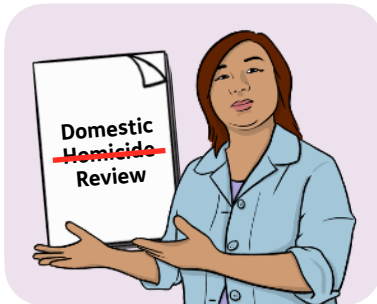


The change would mean removing the word 'homicide' from the name.

Most people said that:



- We should change the name of Domestic Homicide Reviews.



- If we removed the word homicide then the name would be less confusing.



- They did not agree with the name suggested by the government: Domestic Abuse **Fatality** Reviews. **Fatality** means death.



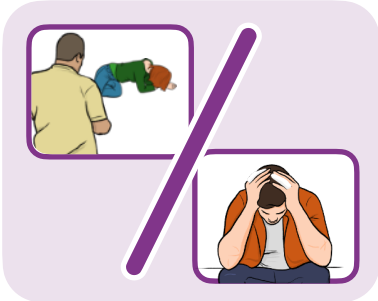
- ‘**Fatality**’ was not the right word, because it makes it seem like the person’s death was an accident.



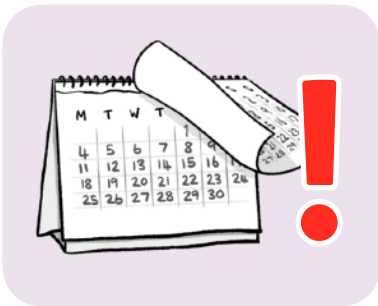
- A better name would be: Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews

Other information

People also said that:



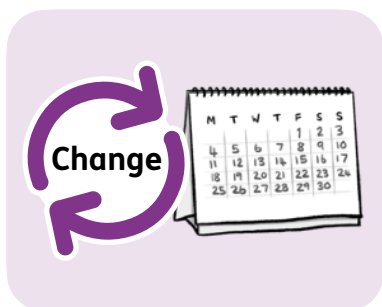
- Domestic Homicide Reviews should deal with murders and suicides differently.



- Domestic Homicide Reviews take too long.

What we will do

When Domestic Homicide Reviews are done



Because of what people said, we will change when a Domestic Homicide Review is done.



This means that a Domestic Homicide Review will now be done when a person dies, or seems to have died, because of **any** kind of domestic abuse.



We will follow how the Domestic Abuse Act describes domestic abuse.

Naming Domestic Homicide Reviews



We will also change the name of Domestic Homicide Reviews to Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews.



We feel that this includes all types of deaths linked to domestic abuse, rather than just murder.

Other information

We will also:



- Look at how Domestic Homicide Reviews could be done differently for murders and suicides.



- Give more training to people who carry out Domestic Homicide Reviews.

We will also:



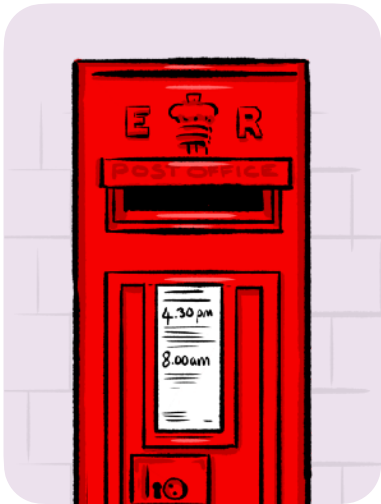
- Make sure that what we find out from Domestic Homicide Reviews is used to make good changes.



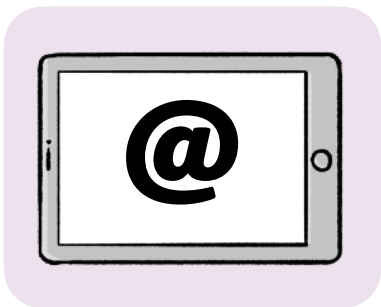
- Carry on working to stop deaths that are linked to domestic abuse from happening.

Find out more

You can contact us by:



- Post:
Domestic Homicide Review Team
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2 Marsham Street
London
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- Email:
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