

One Minute Guide

Domestic homicide reviews were established on a statutory basis under Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004) and they became law in April 2011.

Domestic Homicide Review

What is a Domestic Homicide Review?

Domestic homicide reviews are carried out to ensure that lessons are learnt when a person has been killed as a result of domestic violence. The Home Office multi-agency statutory guidance defines a domestic homicide review (DHR) as a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over, has or appears to have resulted from violence, abuse, or neglect by:

- a person whom he/she was related or had been in an intimate personal relationship; or
- a member of the same household.

The purpose of a domestic homicide review is to:

- establish what lessons are to be learned from the domestic homicide regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims.
- identify clearly what those lessons are both within and between agencies, how and within what timescales they will be acted on, and what is expected to change as a result.
- apply those lessons to service responses, including changes to policies and procedures as appropriate.
- prevent domestic violence homicide and improve service responses for all domestic violence victims and their children through improved intra- and inter-agency working.

A domestic homicide review will not:

- be an inquiry into how the victim died or into who is culpable; that is a matter for coroners and criminal courts respectively to determine as appropriate.
- specifically, be part of any disciplinary enquiry or process. Where information emerges during a DHR indicating that disciplinary action should be initiated, the established agency disciplinary procedures should be undertaken separately to the DHR process. Alternatively, some DHRs may be conducted concurrently with (but separate to) disciplinary action.

If a domestic homicide takes place in Barking and Dagenham, the police will immediately inform the chair of the Community Safety Partnership who will inform the Chair on the 'One Panel'. The 'One Panel' will decide if a DHR is appropriate and, if so, appoint an independent chair and report writer. Confirmation of a decision to review, as well as a decision not to review, a homicide will be sent in writing to the Home Office in line with [Home Office guidance](#). Please see the Barking and Dagenham One Panel Guidance.

In line with section 9(2) of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004), the Secretary of State may in a particular homicide direct a specified person or body to establish, or to participate in, a DHR. Such a direction is likely to be made where a person or body has declined involvement in a DHR.

Quality assurance for completed DHRs rests with an expert group made up of statutory and voluntary agencies and managed by the Home Office. All completed overview reports and supporting documents are sent to the Home Office and are assessed against the Home Office guidance. Further information about this group can be found on the [Home Office website](#).

Barking and Dagenham

The Barking and Dagenham Community Safety Partnership will publish DHR reports from the previous years on the [website](#) and will include executive summaries and lessons learned briefings from those DHRs.

The Barking and Dagenham Community Safety Partnership works closely with the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Adults Board and the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Partnership. Together, they form the Barking and Dagenham One Panel.

For Terms of Reference, Guidance and anything else regarding One Panel please contact bdonepanel@lbbd.gov.uk for more information.

Useful Links/Further Information

[Barking and Dagenham Domestic Homicide Reviews](#) [All Docs from the Home Office re DHR](#)
[DHR Library](#) [Domestic Abuse \(Barking and Dagenham Professional Guidance\)](#)