

**Mervyn Storey MLA**  
Chair - Performance Committee

**Date:** 24 September 2020

Mr Paul Givan, MLA  
Chairman, Committee for Justice  
Room 242, Parliament Buildings  
Stormont  
Belfast  
BT4 3XX

Dear Mr Givan

## **DOMESTIC ABUSE AND FAMILY PROCEEDINGS BILL**


At its Performance Committee on the 10 September 2020, Members considered PSNI performance against Measures within the annual Performance Plan 2020/21 with a strategic focus on repeat victims, repeat offenders and the delivery of effective crime outcomes in relation to Domestic Violence and Abuse (DV/A). Performance Committee Members received a presentation from PSNI in regards to DV/A and discussed a potential 'gap' in legislative provisions within the Domestic Abuse and Family Proceedings Bill and how this could impact on PSNI's ability to further protect victims. As such, Performance Committee Members have asked that I follow up on the potential 'gap' within the Bill in question.

Through Committee discussion and also outlined in the Board's call for evidence response to the Bill, it is mentioned that, *'The Board recognises that the Bill does not include domestic abuse protection notices (DAPNs) or domestic abuse protection orders (DAPOs). In benchmarking with England and Wales through police performance monitoring in regards to domestic violence and abuse, the Board understand considerable merit in introducing domestic abuse protection notices and orders,'* and, *'... Given the considerable merit, the Board would support the introduction of these notices and orders within legislation.'*

Therefore, with consideration of the Performance Committee's discussion and in reflection of the views outlined in the Board's submitted call for evidence response, could the Committee for Justice provide Members with information on how Domestic Violence Protection Notices/Orders (DVPN/Os) are being taken forward and outline plans to introduce Domestic Abuse Protection Notices/Orders.

I look forward to receiving your response and in the meantime, should you wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,



**Mervyn Storey MLA**  
Chair  
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**Northern Ireland Policing Board**

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