

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 July 2026 08:54
To: Frew, Paul <paul.frew@mla.niassembly.gov.uk>
Subject: AAFDA (advocacy after fatal domestic abuse)

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Member,

I hope this email finds you well.

My name is [REDACTED] and I am the Northern Ireland Advocate for AAFDA (Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse). My role is to provide specialist advocacy and support to families bereaved through domestic homicide, suicide following domestic abuse, and other deaths where domestic abuse is a significant factor.

As part of my work, I work closely with the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Secretariat in Northern Ireland, supporting bereaved families to engage meaningfully with the review process and ensuring that their voices, experiences and insights are central to the learning identified through each review. I also support families through complex statutory processes, including interactions with the Coroner's Service and criminal justice agencies.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to introduce AAFDA's work in Northern Ireland and discuss why I believe it is important that there is a strong and ongoing relationship between AAFDA and the Justice Committee.

Whilst Northern Ireland has made significant progress through the introduction of Domestic Homicide Reviews, there remains an important gap when compared with the rest of the United Kingdom.

England and Wales already consider suicides following domestic abuse within their Domestic Homicide Review framework, and Scotland has now introduced Domestic Homicide and Suicide Reviews through legislation. This means Northern Ireland risks falling behind in recognising and learning from deaths where domestic abuse has been a significant contributing factor, but where the death itself is recorded as suicide.

I appreciate that introducing entirely new primary legislation may not be a realistic priority in the current mandate. However, there may be opportunities to **strengthen the existing legislative framework** through amendments to future justice legislation or related Bills as they progress through the Assembly. The Justice Committee plays a vital role in scrutinising Bills and considering amendments during the legislative process, making early engagement particularly valuable.

A face-to-face meeting would provide an opportunity to discuss:

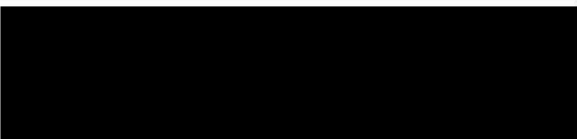
- The role of AAFDA in Northern Ireland.
- How we support families throughout Domestic Homicide Reviews and other justice processes.
- The learning emerging from our work with bereaved families.
- Why recognising suicide following domestic abuse is an important area for future policy development.
- How AAFDA can support the Committee by providing evidence, lived experience and expertise to inform future scrutiny and legislative development.

I firmly believe that by working collaboratively, we can help ensure that the voices of bereaved families contribute to improving policy, strengthening public protection and preventing future deaths.

I would be grateful if you would consider meeting with me at a mutually convenient time.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my request. I look forward to the opportunity to meet with you and discuss how AAFDA can work alongside the Committee for Justice to improve outcomes for families affected by fatal domestic abuse.

Kind regards,



Specialist and Expert Advocate (NI)
AAFDA (Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse)

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]



[Sign up here to join our mailing list for professionals](#)

www.aafda.org.uk

[Film. Helping Families be integral to reviews. AAFDA's 7 step model](#)

**AAFDA'S 2025-26 TRAINING COURSES ARE LIVE! TO BOOK OR FOR MORE INFORMATION
[CLICK HERE.](#)**

Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse LTD is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales.
Registered Office: 30 Commercial Road, Swindon, England, SN1 5NS
Charity Number: 1185078
Company Number: 09527065

I support work/life balance and don't expect an answer to my emails before 9 a.m. after 5 p.m. or at weekends even if you receive one from me outside of normal office hours.



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**