



Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE  
UK Statistics Authority  
1 Drummond Gate  
London  
SW1V 2QQ

4 December 2014

Dear Mr. Dilnot,

## **DATA ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROSECUTIONS**

Thank you for sharing a copy of your response to Mr. Chris Kelly, MP for Dudley South, dated 26 September.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is committed to the Government's Transparency Agenda and publishes data on a range of issues such as violence against women and girls (VAWG), including domestic violence, through the CPS VAWG Crime Report.<sup>1</sup> The feedback from external partners, including victims' groups, on the utility of publishing this data is overwhelmingly positive. The data is used not only to hold the CPS to account but to inform wider work on this critical issue.

The VAWG Crime Report outlines a number of important caveats to the data considered including information about a 'flagging' system which is used to extract information on domestic violence from the CPS Case Management System. The

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<sup>1</sup>Available at the CPS VAWG Home Page: <http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/equality/vaw/index.html>



flagging system requires administrators to identify and 'flag' appropriate cases as domestic violence. The flag is used primarily for victim care purposes and will remain even if the domestic violence aspect of the case is not proceeded with.

I look forward to the outcome of a meeting which I understand is being set up by the UK Statistics Authority with the CPS, the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice on a wider discussion about the publication of data related to domestic violence. There should also be consideration of related work including:

- the Government's consultation on introducing a specific offence for domestic abuse in line with its non-statutory definition;
- relevant discussion at task-and-finish groups set up to consider findings from a review by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary into the police handling of domestic abuse and violence published in March 2014; and
- the joint, and longer term, project with Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service to develop the shared Common Platform IT system.

Yours sincerely,



**ALISON SAUNDERS**  
**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS**

cc.  
David Blunt, Home Office  
Steve Ellerd-Elliott, Ministry of Justice