

Date: 26/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016459/W

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016459/W

I write in connection with your request for information dated 24/02/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please provide information about Greater Manchester Police handling of records flagged/coded as FGM-related. I am requesting this in a way intended to avoid any risk of identifying victims.

Scope and safeguards:

Force-wide only (no district/borough breakdown).

One single period only: 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2025 (no yearly breakdown).

No personal data, case narratives, dates, locations, ages, referral sources, or details that could identify individuals.

Quantitative - aggregated progression / drop-off stages (single 2016-2025 period) Please provide the most aggregated counts you hold for FGM-flagged cases across the following "stages" (or your nearest equivalent categories). If you use Home Office outcome codes or similar, please map to the closest broad group:

1.1 Total number of records/incidents/crimes flagged/coded as FGM-related.

1.2 Of these, the number that resulted in each of the following broad end-states:

- A) Charge/summons (or equivalent "prosecution initiated" outcome)***
- B) File submitted to CPS for charging decision but no charge (if held; otherwise state not held)***
- C) Closed with suspect identified but evidential difficulties (broad category)***
- D) Closed with victim/complainant does not support / unable to continue (broad category)***
- E) Closed with suspect not identified / no suspect (broad category)***

- F) Transferred to another force/agency or outside jurisdiction (broad category)**
G) Cancelled/no-crime/recording decision (broad category)

If you do not hold the above as reportable fields for FGM-flagged records, please provide the closest equivalent "attrition" breakdown you can generate safely (e.g., your highest-level outcome groupings for those records).

Disclosure control:

If any figure is not safely disclosable, please provide it in bands (e.g., 0; 1-4; 5-9; 10-19; 20-49; 50+), or as "<10".

If only some categories are safely disclosable, please provide those and explain which are withheld and why.

If you consider FOIA s44 prevents disclosure of any quantitative information even in this aggregated/banded form, please proceed to answer Part 2 below in full.

Core process documents (most recent versions held)

2.1 The SOP/policy/guidance that sets out how a record is identified/flagged/coded as FGM-related (a generic description of the relevant flag/coding is sufficient).

2.2 The documented workflow/pathway for responding to and investigating FGM-related allegations, including safeguarding steps and when specialist units are involved.

2.3 The policy/guidance on supervisory sign-off and quality assurance for closing FGM-related investigations (e.g., NFA decision authority, required reviews, dip sampling/scrutiny panels), if such guidance exists.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information and I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP.

However, I am not obliged to supply you with all the information held in regards to question xxx as exemptions apply.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Greater Manchester Police, when refusing to provide such information (because this information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant, with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

Where redactions in the attached documents for question xxx have been made, that information is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 40(2)(a) – Personal Information

Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement

Where Section 40 has been used, this represents information that identifies a living individual, to disclose this information would breach the principles of the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Article 4 of the GDPR and Part 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018, and means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'). An identified natural person is one who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

Section 31 is a qualified and prejudice based exemption and as such, subject to a harm and public interest test.

Harm

To provide the redacted information within the attached policy would reveal policing tactics used by Greater Manchester Police. This would give an advantage to those that are intent on committing offences and avoid detection. It would also increase the risk of danger towards the public GMP who sworn to protect.

Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose the redacted information would provide the public with a slightly more in-depth knowledge into how Greater Manchester Police operates. This would enable the populous to take steps to protect themselves against criminal activity and may lead to further information being provided to the force.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to release the redacted information into the public domain would reveal the policing tactics of Greater Manchester Police. This would impact on the force's ability to detect and prevent crime and apprehend and prosecute offenders.

The risk of danger to the public would be increased by revealing such policing tactics into the public domain. The safety of the public we protect is of paramount importance to Greater Manchester Police and we would not wish to jeopardise that safety by releasing exempt information into the public domain.

Balancing Test

The arguments for and against disclosure of information need to be weighed against each other. In this case the greatest argument for disclosure is the fact that the populous would be provided with information regarding how the force police operate.

However, given that the disclosure would increase the risk of increased crime to and assist those intent on committing crime to avoid detection the balance of disclosure, at this time, weighs on non-disclosure for those particular redacted parts of the policy requested.

This letter acts as a refusal notice for the redacted parts of the attached document.

In addition, Some results below for part 1 have been replaced with X as Victims of Female Genital Mutilation have lifelong anonymity under Section 71 of the Serious Crime Act 2015. A breach of their anonymity is a summary offence which carries an unlimited fine. Due to this, the information below with an X that you have requested relating to Female Genital Mutilation offences is exempt under **Section 44(1)(a) - Prohibitions on Disclosure**.

In accordance with the Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for part of this piece of information.

Please see the remaining responses below.

Part 1.

Caveats.

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK Policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what

- The data provided for this request is based on a search of the HO crime codes listed on the 'HO Codes' tab recorded between 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2025 inclusive. The data has been displayed as a total as per the request.

- Duplicates have been removed where possible.
- Please note the date is based on the 'Crime Recorded' date and not when the Incident occurred.
- The data provided for this request is subject to change as crimes are progressed and/ or updated.
- The FGM Flag has not been located as being utilised prior to 2019.

Outcomes	Total Recorded Crime Count (with FGM Flag)	Charge (1A)	Evidential Difficulties Victim Based - No Suspect Identified (14)	Investigation Complete - No Suspect Identified (18)	Suspect Identified-Insufficient Evidence Police (15B)	Suspect Identified-Victim Does not Support (16)	Prosecution Time Expired (17)
Total	30	X	6	9	10	X	X

Part 2.

Please see the exemption above followed by the attached Honour Based Abuse Policy.

Honour Based Abuse

Policy & Procedure

August 2025

DATE THIS VERSION IMPLEMENTED: 25/6/25

DATE NEXT REVIEW IS DUE: June 2026

CHIEF OFFICER SPONSOR: [REDACTED]

OWNER: [REDACTED]

AUTHOR: [REDACTED]

APPROVED BY: [REDACTED]

GOVERNMENT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION: Official-Sensitive

IS THE POLICY NEW OR REVISED: Revised

VERSION NO	DATE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES	AUTHOR(S)	PUBLISHED ON CCOs
0.10	8/4/10	Original policy, which replaced guidance in Chief Constable's [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
0.11	2/11/12	Policy revised, shortened and transferred onto corporate template.	[REDACTED]	
0.12	28/11/12	Links added to Domestic Abuse Policy.	[REDACTED]	
0.12a	28/11/12	Section numbering altered and links updated.	[REDACTED]	
0.13	25/03/13	Updated to include new definition of domestic abuse.	[REDACTED]	
0.14	07/04/14	Restricted protective marking added to entire document rather than just in the section above.	[REDACTED]	
0.15	10/04/14	Amended section 3.13 to ensure investigation type within PPI OPUS identifies whether the incident is FM or honour-based violence incident.	[REDACTED]	
0.16	09/09/14	Legislation at Appendix C amended. Witness protection unit changed to people at risk unit. CID changed to integrated neighbourhood policing unit.	[REDACTED]	
0.17	18/03/16	Added force form 1138 relocating a victim.	[REDACTED]	
0.18	25/01/17	Section 5.2.5 amended to reflect revised NPCC procedure for national insurance data.	[REDACTED]	
0.19	27/09/19	Appendix D updated to include correct process for taking/submission of biometric samples for HBV/FM.	[REDACTED]	
1	June 2024	Policy re-written to reflect changes in processes, [REDACTED] and include developed terminology and practice.	[REDACTED]	2024/26 1 July
1.1	March 2025	Minor updates to 3.7 (referrals to CPS complex case unit) and 4.3 (links to misogyny).	[REDACTED]	
1.2	June 2025	Minor updates to 3.7 (FGM including FMPOs and FGMPs)	[REDACTED]	
1.3	Aug 2025	Section 4.7 updated to include a link to the National FGM Centre leaflet on 'child abuse linked to faith or belief'.	[REDACTED]	

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1. Policy statement

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) is committed to working with partners to end honour based abuse (HBA); increasing trust and confidence of victims, survivors and affected communities; and identifying, prosecuting and bringing offenders to justice.

HBA is the umbrella term for a number of practices including forced marriage (FM), female genital mutilation (FGM), hymenoplasty, virginity testing and many more types of abuse.

If the police are perceived to have dealt with HBA poorly, this will impact on public confidence to report these issues. GMP's response must be transparent and this will be achieved by recognising HBA as a fundamental breach of human rights.

HBA can impact on individuals in many ways, with victims suffering serious assault and even death at the hands of family members. GMP is committed to developing responses that keep people safe and hold perpetrators to account without stereotyping, stigmatising or making assumptions about any given individual or community.

All practitioners working with victims and survivors of HBA need to be aware of the **one chance rule**. That is, **they may only have one chance to speak to a potential victim and so they may only have one chance to save a life**. This means that all practitioners working within statutory agencies need to be aware of their responsibilities and obligations when they come across such cases. If the victim is allowed to walk out of the door without support, that one chance might be missed.

1.1 Aims

The main aim of this policy is to prevent HBA. Being aware of how culture impacts individuals and groups within society is key to an effective response. It is designed to help identify future victims of HBA and reduce the likelihood of future harm, including homicide, serious injury and acts of violence.

The policy is underpinned by procedures to help all officers and staff to use their professional curiosity to identify HBA and associated issues, in particular the risk involved and the actions that should be considered to safeguard those at risk.

1.2 Objectives

- Give victims and survivors confidence to report incidents and keep them safe from further risk of harm.
- Improve the quality of service to victims and survivors of HBA.
- Ensure that incidents are dealt with thoroughly and that the needs of victims and survivors are central to our response.
- Deal with victims and survivors of HBA effectively by conducting thorough risk assessment processes to reduce the likelihood of future harm, including homicide, serious injury and acts of abuse.
- Increase active involvement with partner agencies to ensure victim and survivor safety.
- Identify communities within Greater Manchester affected by HBA.
- Ensure that all GMP staff understand their responsibilities.
- Comply with national guidance on reporting and recording HBA and crimes for FM and FGM.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all staff dealing with incidents of HBA and associated criminal offences.

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 Superintendent - safeguarding vulnerable persons, Public Protection Division

- Policy owner with responsibility for the strategic direction of HBA.
- Advise chief officers and provide strategic leadership and direction.
- Provide a source of advice and guidance to districts.
- Review force performance of HBA.
- Share good practice throughout the force.
- Ensure continuous engagement with communities at a strategic level including strategic independent advisory groups and support groups.
- Maintain oversight of force policy.
- Ensure officers and staff have relevant training to deal with incidents.
- Put in place structures and mechanisms to ensure effective engagement and a multi-agency approach to dealing with cases.
- Monitor and share ongoing developments in HBA.
- Quality assure incidents involving GMP officers or staff.
- Share concerns with relevant partner agencies.

3.2 Crime and vulnerability detective superintendent/chief inspector

- Provide strategic leadership and direction.
- Provide a source of advice and guidance.
- Review district performance, ensure compliance with policy and address any issues.
- Support district HBA champions and victim services coordinators to improve responses to HBA.
- Ensure continuous engagement with communities at a strategic level including strategic independent advisory groups and support groups.
- Ensure officers and staff have relevant training to deal with incidents.
- Put in place structures and mechanisms to ensure effective engagement and a multi-agency approach to dealing with cases.
- Share ongoing developments and good practice in HBA at the direction of the force lead.
- Quality assure incidents involving GMP officers or staff.
- Share concerns with relevant partner agencies and the force lead.

3.3 Force honour based abuse lead expert

- Share good practice throughout the force.
- Review and maintain force policy as required and monitor its effectiveness.
- Be a point of contact for districts, providing specialist advice and service recovery.
- Deliver training throughout the force and to partners where appropriate.

- Ensure that a multi-agency approach is maintained when dealing with incidents.
- Monitor and disseminate ongoing developments in HBA at a national level.
- Share knowledge, raise awareness and assist in up-skilling colleagues.
- Liaise with and support the Forced Marriage Unit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office.
- Maintain engagement with community members via relevant networks.
- Monitor ongoing development in HBA.
- Be aware of relevant agencies for signposting and liaise with the victim services coordinators.
- Monitor Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders applications.

3.4 Public protection governance unit

- Review and monitor force policy and its effectiveness.
- Share good practice throughout the force.
- Provide policy guidance to districts.
- Share knowledge, raise awareness and assist in up-skilling colleagues.
- Support and maintain the network of HBA champions.
- Ensure that a multi-agency approach is maintained when dealing with incidents.
- Review force performance and collate statistics on behalf of the force.
- Monitor compliance with policy and National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS).
- Encourage and promote forcewide initiatives.
- Manage media strategies.
- Define information sharing protocols.

3.5 Force contact, crime and operations branch staff

The first point of contact with a victim may be via telephone to the Force Contact, Crime and Operations Branch. As a call taker, supervisor or radio operator you must recognise the importance of the call and the impact on the victim having made the decision to contact the police. Often this is their **one chance** to get help.

Call handler

- Be sympathetic, reassuring and calming.
- Follow minimum standards for HBA and FM on [REDACTED]
- Place the force duty officer in the control group for FM and FGM incidents.
- Focus on risk first: make people safe and give appropriate advice.
- Be familiar with [Authorised Professional Practice \(APP\) contact management](#), which provides guidance on initial actions, safety advice and information gathering.
- Recognise the importance of the call and the impact on the victim having made the decision to contact the police.
- Ensure that links are made within [REDACTED] to people, objects, location and events to understand the full picture.
- Follow general guidelines and information required in all cases ([see section 5](#)).
- Offer safety and security advice to the victim.
- [REDACTED]
- Place [REDACTED] control group of the log for all FM and FGM incidents so the Crime Recording Resolution Unit (CRRU) can ensure crime recording standards are followed.
- Record title heading of log with HBA and/or FM, FGM.
- Refer to the [Domestic Abuse Policy & Procedure](#).

Radio operator

- Deploy an officer using the [Incident Response Policy](#).
- [REDACTED]
- Do not close an incident until contact has been made with the victim and a risk assessment carried out, whether at the first point of contact or by the attending officer.
- Support districts to close all HBA related incidents ([REDACTED])
- Place [REDACTED] in the control group of the log for all FM and FGM incidents so the CRRU can ensure crime recording standards are followed.
- Ensure any other relevant incident/crime code is included depending on the circumstances.

Force duty officer

- In critical cases consider running the incident on a paper-based system.
- Ensure that CID and the duty detective inspector are made aware.
- Ensure [REDACTED] are in the control group of the log for all FM and FGM incidents so the CRRU can ensure crime recording standard are followed.
- Redact address details on the log where a risk assessment has been carried out, if necessary, for the victim's protection to ensure they are not traced by family or community members and that addresses are not shared without relevant authority.

Supervisor

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

3.6 District inspector

Ensure that:

- Staff follow the HBA policy and highlight any non-compliance to their line manager.
- All officers are appropriately trained.
- A trained HBA officer is engaged.
- All actions of investigating officers are conducted effectively.
- An immediate risk assessment is conducted with the victim.
- Cases are progressed expeditiously.
- Early liaison with the duty detective sergeant on district cover takes place.
- Action is considered if a victim wishes to return to their family having reported issues of HBA.
- Any wider community issues are considered including the need for a community impact assessment or if the incident should be treated as a critical incident.
- Any other relevant issues at [section 5](#) are considered and actioned as appropriate.

3.7 Investigating officer

- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- Ensure compliance with the Victims' Code and complete the victim assessment referral with consent.
 - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 - Where required, ensure either a DAB or CAP is submitted and apply the correct flags (FGM, FM or HBA flag depending on the circumstances).
 - Add information markers for HBA to victims and perpetrators. Consider whether an urgent marker is required for a location to support a timely response to new incidents.
 - Update [REDACTED] ensuring the investigation identifies an HBA incident. Add [REDACTED] closing code.
 - In FM cases, ensure a crime is submitted and consider a Forced Marriage Protection Order (FMPO) with a power of arrest.
 - If the individual has moved or is due to be relocated outside the Greater Manchester area, notify the receiving force for them to conduct a full risk assessment.
 - Obtain any relevant information from the force area where the individual resides if not in Greater Manchester.
 - Ensure the victim is updated regularly in accordance with the Victims' Code.
 - Refer to appropriate support services with the individual's consent.
 - Consider action if a victim/potential victim wishes to return to their family having reported issues of HBA.
 - In FGM cases, ensure a crime is submitted, consider a Female Genital Mutilation Protection Order (FGMPO) with a power of arrest and comply with NCRS. Refer to [REDACTED].
[REDACTED] Ensure a CAP is submitted and FGM flag has been added. Girls and women can be at risk of FGM.
 - Upon receipt of a FMPO or FGMPPO from any family court: ensure that intelligence is submitted and flagged as FM or FGM; conduct a check of the associated persons, and ensure safeguarding measures are in place.

3.8 All officers and staff

Be aware of this policy and procedure and refer to the appendices for guidance and support when dealing with HBA incidents. Deal with incidents thoroughly and use professional

curiosity, pay attention to cultural competence and ensure that the needs of victims are placed at the centre. Seek support and guidance where required, including next steps and decision making. Seek advice from a supervisor if there is concern about a conflict of interest when dealing with HBA cases.

4. Terms and definitions

4.1 Acronyms

APP	Authorised Professional Practice (College of Policing)
CAP	child or adult welfare care plan
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service
CRO	Criminal Records Office
CRRU	Crime recording resolution unit
CSC	Children's Social Care
DAB	domestic abuse event
DASH	Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honour-based Violence Risk Assessment Model
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
FM	forced marriage
FMU	Forced Marriage Unit (joint FCDO and Home Office unit)
FGM	female genital mutilation
FMPO	Forced Marriage Protection Order
FGMPO	Female Genital Mutilation Protection Order
HBA	Honour based abuse
HMRC	His Majesty's Revenue and Customs
IDENT1	national fingerprint database
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MVDAC	Migrant Victims of Domestic Abuse Concession ¹
NCRS	National Crime Recording Standards
NI	National Insurance
NPCC	National Police Chiefs' Council
OIC	officer in the case
PRU	people at risk unit
PW	PoliceWorks
SPOC	single point of contact

4.2 Honour based abuse

The National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) definition of HBA is:

An incident or crime involving violence, threats of violence, intimidation, coercion or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse), which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of an individual, family and/or community for alleged or perceived breaches of the family and/or community's code of behaviour.

HBA can be distinguished from other forms of abuse as it is often committed with some degree of approval and collusion from family and/or community members.

Victims of HBA are predominantly female and the context for abuse is the maintenance of patriarchal values on gender roles. However, it is important to note that females can also be perpetrators. Their role in the abuse can vary. Females are more involved in perpetrating

¹ Formally known as the Destitution Domestic Violence Concession

HBA than they are in perpetrating other forms of DA². Sexism and misogyny play a central role in the ideology woven through HBA. Misogyny is a key indicator of increased risk in cases of HBA in the UK and abroad.

Examples of offences committed under the umbrella of HBA include murder, fear of or actual forced marriage, aid/abet/counsel/procure suicide, controlling and coercive behaviour, sexual abuse, hymenoplasty, virginity testing, domestic abuse, human trafficking, child abuse, kidnapping, false imprisonment, threats to kill, assault, harassment and forced abortion. This list is not exhaustive.

Concepts of honour and shame have long been associated with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender plus other sexual identities including pansexual and two-spirit (LGBTQIA2S+) people in affected communities where there is actual or threatened forced marriage and where the potential for other forms of HBA are seen as a significant and real threat. This is particularly true where a person has either 'come out' as being gay or has been 'outed'.

In addition, we know that Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers as racial groups have their own honour code which governs the conduct of women and men.

Perceived dishonourable behaviour may include:

- becoming westernised e.g. inappropriate make-up/clothing or socialising
- seeking an education
- being in a relationship before marriage
- rejecting a forced or arranged marriage
- becoming pregnant outside of marriage
- being the victim of rape or other serious sexual assault
- having an interfaith or inter-caste relationship
- leaving a spouse or seeking a divorce
- kissing or showing other forms of intimacy in a public place
- possessing and/or using mobile telephones
- radicalisation
- use of social media
- using drugs, drinking alcohol and smoking.

The above behaviours can be considered acceptable for some males, but not females.

It is important to understand the motives of HBA, which should not be accepted as justification. Having free will and choice are fundamental human rights. The motives must not be used to justify HBA based on cultural or religious ideology. Research shows that HBA practices are rooted in cultural perceptions rather than religious ideologies³.

When dealing with potential victims of HBA, it is important to recognise the seriousness of the risk. Consider the associated risk and whether their (secret) partner and their family, children, associates and or siblings are also at risk. Also consider the fact that there could be multiple perpetrators from within the family or community. For further guidance refer to [REDACTED]

4.3 Female genital mutilation

The World Health Organisation defines female genital mutilation (FGM) as comprising all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to

² [Females perpetrating honour based abuse: controllers, collaborators or coerced?](#) Bates, L (2018)

³ Aplin, R (2018), Idriss, M (2017).

the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. FGM can be a form of HBA as girls are often cut in order to make them more chaste and marriageable.

Under Sections 1-3 of the FGM Act 2003, FGM is identified as '*excises, infibulates or otherwise mutilates the whole or any part of a girl's labia majora, labia minora or clitoris*'. FGM is practised within the UK and by taking girls out of the country for the procedure. Many girls are taken out of school for the practice and can suffer physical and mental health consequences as a result. Women who have undergone the procedure tend to come to the attention of health services at the time of, or in the run-up to, childbirth. It is often carried out on children and often performed by elderly family members with no medical qualifications or and no anaesthetic. It is typically performed on girls aged between four and 13 but can be performed on new-born infants or on young women before marriage or pregnancy.

Refer to CPS guidance on [female genital mutilation](#).

4.4 Virginitv testing and hymenoplasty

Virginitv testing and hymenoplasty are illegal in the UK. These practices are forms of violence against women and girls and are a type of HBA.

Hymenoplasty is linked to conservative cultures which place a high value on virginitv, with the expectation a virgin should bleed after sex on her wedding night. Virginitv testing involves an intrusive vaginal examination to check if the hymen is intact.

There is no medical reason why virginitv testing, hymenoplasty, or any other procedure under a different name that seeks to reconstruct or repair the hymen would need to be carried out. These procedures seek to ensure a woman, or a girl is perceived as a 'virgin'.

For further information, refer to [government multi-agency guidance on virginitv testing and hymenoplasty](#).

4.5 Forced marriage

Forced marriage (FM) is where one or both spouses do not consent to the marriage but are coerced into it. Force can include physical, psychological, economic, sexual and emotional pressure. In cases of vulnerable adults who lack the capacity to consent to marriage, coercion is not required for a marriage to be forced.

The [Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#) sets out FM offences. It states that a person commits an offence under the law in England and Wales if he or she "uses violence, threats or any other form of coercion for the purpose of causing another person to enter into a marriage and believes, or ought reasonably to believe, that the conduct may cause the other person to enter into the marriage without free and full consent."

It also states that FM can be committed if a person lacks capacity, whether or not coercion plays a part. In England and Wales, the [Marriage and Civil Partnership \(Minimum Age\) Act 2022](#) prohibits 16 and 17-year-olds from marrying or entering into a civil partnership, regardless of whether they have parental consent. The Act also makes it an offence to lure someone overseas for the purpose of FM. For further information, refer to [CPS guidance on identifying and flagging cases](#).

There is a clear distinction between FM and an arranged marriage. In arranged marriages, the families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage, but the choice of

whether or not to accept the arrangement still remains with the prospective spouses. FM is a violation of internationally recognised human rights and rights of the child. It cannot be justified on any religious or cultural basis. Whilst victims of FM are generally women and girls, men and boys can also be victims. In addition, people who lack capacity to consent to marriage cannot give informed consent, as outlined in the [Mental Capacity Act 2005](#). The consequences for refusing or trying to leave a FM can be extreme and potential risks must not be underestimated. To avoid the serious consequences that can result from losing one's honour, individuals, families and communities may take drastic steps to preserve, protect or avenge their 'honour'. Starting with coercion and control, leading to many types of domestic abuse and murder.

In some cases, people may be taken abroad without knowing that they are to be married. When they arrive in the country their passports and possessions are taken to stop them returning home. In these circumstances they often don't know where to go for help and it is vital we ensure that potential victims know what to do and where to turn to if they are out of the country and a marriage is forced upon them.

Many cases involve the victim being married abroad and being brought back into the UK. Often these victims are freely entering into what they believe is an arranged marriage unaware that their partner is marrying under duress. It is not until the victim arrives in the country that the abuse begins and they become aware of what has happened. Many victims will not have the confidence or know how to report incidents to the police. Often these individuals do not have recourse to public funds (for further information, refer to [guidance on public funds](#)).

4.6 Child marriage

Child marriage is a practice in which parents of small children (including infants) arrange a future marriage with another child's parents. The children are betrothed or promised to each other. Often the children will not meet until the wedding ceremony, which occurs when they are both at an acceptable age to marry. This can differ depending upon the legal age to marry in that particular country. The age may be at or before the onset of puberty. The betrothal is considered a binding contract between the families and breaking a commitment can have serious consequences.

It can also be a child (the majority of which are girls) marrying someone significantly older, with girls seen as of less value to boys with which to trade. To secure a 'good' marriage is seen as honourable. Child marriages should always be classed as forced marriages. The international organisation [Girls Not Brides](#) states that '*child marriage is a truly global problem that cuts across countries, cultures, religions and ethnicities*'.

In England and Wales, the [Marriage and Civil Partnership \(Minimum Age\) Act 2022](#) prohibits 16 and 17-year-olds from marrying or entering into a civil partnership, regardless of whether they have parental consent.

4.7 Spiritual and ritual abuse

Belief in witchcraft, spirit possession and other forms of the supernatural can lead to children and adults being blamed for bad luck and subsequently abused. These beliefs are widely held; they are not limited to any particular country, culture, community or religion. When harm is caused as a result of any belief, that is abuse. Fear of the supernatural is also known to be used to make children and adults comply with being trafficked for domestic slavery or sexual exploitation.

Whilst Article 9 of the Human Rights Act protects the right to freedom of thought, belief and religion, it is important to **challenge the behaviour and not the belief**.

When a parent or carer has come to view a child as 'different', they may have attributed this difference to the child being possessed. The term 'belief in spirit possession' is the belief that an evil force has entered a child and is controlling them. Sometimes the term 'witch' is used and is the belief that a child is able to use an evil force to harm others.

Genuine beliefs can be held by families, carers, religious leaders, congregations and the children themselves that evil forces are at work. Families and children can be deeply worried by the evil that they believe is threatening them, and abuse often occurs when an attempt is made to 'exorcise' or 'deliver' the child. Exorcism is the attempt to expel evil spirits from a child. Reasons for the child being identified as 'different' may be a disobedient or independent nature, bed wetting, nightmares or illness. Attempts to exorcise the child include but are not limited to beating, burning, drowning, starvation, cutting or stabbing, being forced to wear a necklace or talisman and isolation within the household. One of the most obvious signs is an unwillingness to touch the child.

It is essential that we do not underestimate the level of control exerted over a victim, including behaviour that could be mistakenly viewed as insignificant.

Children with a disability may also be viewed as different, and various degrees of disability have previously been interpreted as 'possession', from a stammer to epilepsy, autism or a life limiting illness.

Whilst it is mostly children that are reported as victims, adults can be victims as well.

Any investigation of this nature must be treated as serious and complex, ensuring that the voice of the child or victim remains at the centre. Refer to [national guidance on child abuse linked to faith or belief](#).

For further information, refer to the National FGM Centre leaflet on [child abuse linked to faith or belief](#).

4.8 Honour killings

Murders in the name of so-called honour are where victims are killed for their perceived immoral behaviour, which is deemed to have breached the honour code of a family or community causing shame. There can be various victims and perpetrators in such murders.

Most cases are female. However, males can also be victims, sometimes as a consequence of their involvement in what is considered to be an inappropriate relationship, being gay or if they are believed to be supporting a HBA victim.

Relatives and community members, both male and female, may conspire, aid, abet or participate in the honour killing. Younger relatives may be selected to participate in or observe the honour killing to act as a warning or to avoid senior family members being implicated. Sometimes bounty hunters and contract killers are employed. A decision to kill may be preceded by a family council. There often tends to be a degree of premeditation, family and/or community conspiracy and a belief that the victim deserves to die for dishonouring and bringing shame to the family.

Evidence shows that these types of killings are often carefully planned and sometimes made to look like a suicide or accident. Therefore, when investigating such cases, always keep an open mind. Family members and/or individuals from within the community concerned may support the primary offender(s), by seeking to mislead, obstruct or undermine the investigation.

The above examples are not exhaustive of HBA practices. It is essential to seek support from HBA champions and subject matter experts.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

5. Procedure

5.1 Initial response and information gathering

Refer to [REDACTED]

Complete the following actions and obtain information about the person(s) at risk:

1.	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
☐	[REDACTED]
☐	[REDACTED]
☐	[REDACTED]
☐	[REDACTED]
☐	[REDACTED]
☐	[REDACTED]
☐	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[illegible]

Children and vulnerable adults

If the person is a vulnerable adult, refer to [Adults at Risk Policy and Procedure](#).

If the person is under 18 years of age, refer to [Child Protection Policy and Procedure](#).

When dealing with children or vulnerable adults, a multi-agency approach must be taken. Under no circumstances should a disclosure be made to the family of the child/vulnerable adult unless there has been a multi-agency discussion, that decision is justified and recorded and it is safe to do so.

Conduct a thorough risk assessment process with victims. For domestic abuse related incidents, create a domestic abuse event (DAB) and complete the DASH risk assessment, ensuring that questions 20-21⁴ are completed. Refer to the [Domestic Abuse Policy & Procedure](#).

Close incidents in accordance with National Standards for Incident Recording:

Qualifier	When to use	Officer in the case actions
C58 Honour Based 17 years and under	When an HBA/FM/FGM incident is reported involving a child, the C58 qualifier should be accompanied by a G07 code as this is a child protection matter.	Create a DAB event in [REDACTED]
C59 Honour Based 18 years and over	This should be used when an adult reports HBA/FM/FGM and should be accompanied by either a D61/D62 closing code.	Create a DAB event in [REDACTED]

⁴ DASH question 20 'are there children/dependants involved?' and question 21 'are you currently pregnant or have you recently had a baby in the past 18 months?'

5.2 Barriers to consider

Reporting

- **Not being believed.** Victims often tell us about feelings of not being believed and this is evident from research. It is essential that we listen; however extreme or unusual it may seem, this is the victim's voice and is central to any investigation. Do not place personal values on what is being said - listen and be professionally curious.
- **Victim may not know what is happening to them.** It will not always be evident that the incident/crime is honour related or involves FM. They may not even realise that they are a victim as their perception of the marriage may be that it is 'arranged' and is something that is performed within their culture and accepted by all.
- **Speaking out carries risk.** Fear of the consequences of speaking out to the police or any other agency is a huge deterrent.
- **Collusion.** There can be multiple perpetrators, including many family members and communities within the UK and abroad. This close network puts the victim at grave risk and limits opportunities to report.
- **Love for their family.** They may not want to get them into trouble or feel responsible for sending them to prison. Often, they just want what is happening to stop. Deciding to leave their family and everything they know is also very difficult.
- **Fear of being ostracised, disowned and isolated.** By family, friends and wider community.
- **Limited life experience.** The victim may have little or no experience of life outside the family and may not know how to function in the outside world or have any access to resources including money, housing or transport. They may have limited life skills such as cooking or self-care.
- **Fear of police.** Some victims may have a deep-rooted fear of police in the UK as police in their country of heritage may be seen as corrupt. Incidents of abuse may not be taken seriously in some countries. Victims may have been told that speaking to police or other officials will result in them being 'sent back' or having children taken away. This fear may prevent them from seeking help.
- **Immigration status.** Those without leave to remain may not report issues to police within the UK for fear of being deported. This can carry huge risk as the victim may be perceived as having brought shame on the family back home as their marriage has ended.
- **Missing in plain sight.** Some young people who are victims of HBA are withdrawn from education early or are taken abroad for extended periods. These occasions are not noticed or may not be questioned due to cultural differences.
- **Coercive control.** Exerting coercive control can begin at any stage, including when a person is very young and may include attempts to limit freedom and independence with restriction and monitoring or restrictions on what a person is allowed to do or how they should behave. If the rules are broken this can lead to further forms of abuse.

Pursuing a complaint

- **Isolation.** As a result of leaving, they may struggle with the lack of familiarity. In some cases, fear may cause them to return home back into a risky environment.
- **The wait for services.** Immediate safety concerns such as accommodation, finances, food and transport can be difficult to arrange. No recourse to public funding adds another layer of complication.
- **Language issues, fear of interpreter.** Being unable to speak English is a significant barrier to reporting to police, pursuing a complaint and navigating the criminal justice system. The victim may also fear collusion that an interpreter would report information back to their family and community.

- **Fears of being tracked down.** Those who do leave often live in fear of their own family who may go to considerable lengths to find them and ensure their return.

[illegible]

5.3 Confidentiality and information sharing

General principles

- Confidentiality is vital to anyone threatened with, or already in a forced marriage, or suffering HBA. Staff must be clear about when confidentiality can be offered and when information given in confidence should be shared or disclosed.
- In the case of a FM, think very carefully about the need to disclose information and to whom. Disclosure could lead to the individual being at an even greater risk of significant harm and result in estrangement from the family.
- If a decision is made to disclose confidential information to another person, seek the individual's consent first. It may not always be appropriate or possible to ask for consent, but always consider whether seeking consent before making a disclosure is appropriate.
- Most individuals will consent to the disclosure if they are given a careful explanation of the reasons why, are reassured about their safety and what will happen next.
- An individual must be told about a disclosure of confidential information even if they do not agree with it.
- For further information, refer to [advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services](#).

Adults at risk (18 years and older)

Individuals 18 years or over (excluding a vulnerable adult without mental capacity) who ask that information remains confidential must be respected. In these circumstances, information must not be disclosed to any external person or body without their consent, unless it is a high-risk case discussed through the multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) process.

There may be exceptions if the person is a danger to themselves or others.

Children (under 18 years)

Under no circumstances should a disclosure be made to the child's family unless there has been a multi-agency discussion, and the decision to do so is justified, recorded and safe.

- When a child or young person explicitly asks police not to give information to their parents/guardians or others with some authority over them, consider a strategy meeting/discussion with Children's Social Care (CSC).
- The best interests of the young person are paramount and police must act to protect them.
- There is no hard and fast rule on disclosure and each case must be judged on individual circumstances.
- If information suggests that they are at serious risk of suffering significant harm, consider whether to disclose information to others (for example social workers) and seek assistance.
- The case must be dealt with under joint agency procedures and [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#).

MARAC referrals

With or without consent, it is likely that a referral will be sent to MARAC as HBA cases are often high risk. The role of the MARAC is to facilitate, monitor and evaluate effective information sharing so that appropriate actions can be taken to increase public safety.

5.4 Nationality, leave to remain and no recourse to public funding**Dual nationality**

- If a person is a British national and holds the nationality of another country, they are considered a dual national.
- This may mean that in the country of their other nationality, the authorities will view them as being solely or primarily nationals of that country and treat them accordingly. They may also not recognise that the British Embassy or High Commission has any right to assist them or may not permit any assistance.
- [Government guidance](#) states 'As a dual national you cannot get diplomatic help from the British government when you are in the other country where you hold citizenship. For example, if you hold both British and Chinese Citizenship you cannot get diplomatic help from the UK when you're in China'.
- Many dual nationality passport holders do not require use of their British passport to leave or enter the UK.
- If there are concerns that an individual may be forced out of the country to get married, it is essential that all passport details are obtained and enquiries made to establish whether the individual has dual nationality.
- When seizing a child's passport to prevent parents from taking the child out of the country, consider dual nationality and the possibility of two existing passports.
- Consider that the child may be named on the parent's passport (in the UK children require their own passport but this may not be the case for other nationalities).
- The British Embassy or High Commission will offer all appropriate assistance to British nationals who are victims of FM, where possible.
- If a person who is suspected of being at risk insists on travelling abroad, strongly advise them to travel on their British passport so that any assistance or repatriation will be easier to implement.
- For repatriation guidance, refer to the [Forced Marriage Unit](#).

- When asking a court to order the surrender of the passport of a person to prevent them from being taken abroad, ensure that this includes all passports if they have dual nationality.
- For queries, contact the Passport Office ([live chat web chat](#)).
- Remember that if the police seize a foreign passport, there is nothing to stop them from getting a new one from their embassy.

Immigration/leave to remain

- The legal age to sponsor a spouse to enter the UK is 18 years of age.
- Generally, people entering the UK as the husband/wife or civil partner of a person who is present and settled in the UK should be granted leave to remain for an initial period of two years. This is sometimes referred to as the probationary period. In the case of an unmarried partner or same sex partner of a person who is present and settled in the UK, the probationary period is also two years.
- At the end of the probationary period an application can be made by the spouse/civil partner or unmarried partner/same sex partner for indefinite leave to remain in the UK.
- This application can be made provided that the marriage/partnership or relationship is ongoing and each party intends to live permanently with the other as their spouse/partner.
- In a situation where domestic abuse has caused the relationship to break down during the probationary period, the spouse/partner can apply for, and be granted, indefinite leave to remain in the UK.
- For leave to be granted they must produce evidence demonstrating that they have been the victim of domestic abuse during the probationary period while the marriage or relationship was still continuing. Records of police attendance and a police investigation might form part of the applicant's case to apply for leave to remain in the UK.
- The protection and safety of victims of domestic abuse is the primary consideration in any case where insecure immigration status is identified as an issue.

Evidence will be either:

- an injunction, non-molestation order or other protection order against the spouse/partner (this does not include an ex-partner or interim order) or
- a relevant court conviction against the abusive spouse/partner or
- full details of a police caution issued against the abusive spouse/partner.

If one of the above is not available, at least two of the following are acceptable:

- medical report from a hospital doctor confirming that the applicant has injuries consistent with being the victim of domestic abuse.
- letter from a GP who has examined the applicant and is satisfied they have injuries consistent with being the victim of domestic abuse.
- undertaking given to a court that the perpetrator of the abuse will not approach the applicant who is the victim of abuse.
- police report confirming attendance at the home of the applicant as a result of domestic abuse.
- letter from adult services or CSC confirming its involvement in connection with domestic abuse.
- letter of support or report from a women's refuge.

This rule also applies where the applicant has been subjected to domestic abuse by someone other than their spouse/partner, providing that the abuse was the reason for the breakdown of the relationship.

Staff must not attempt to give immigration advice. It is a criminal offence for any unqualified person to give this advice. Refer to [government guidance for further information on spousal visas](#).

No recourse to public funds

The no recourse to public funds policy is based on a principle that people without a permanent right to remain in the UK should not have the same access to benefits as British citizens.

The [Migrant Victims of Domestic Abuse Concession](#)⁵ is where the government provides help to victims of domestic abuse who have no access to public funds (admitted to the UK with leave to remain as spouses, unmarried partners or civil partners of a British citizen, or of a non-citizen who is settled in the UK). This allows domestic abuse victims to apply for indefinite leave to remain in their own right. The concession is often applied to assist victims of HBA.

To assist victims with no recourse to public funds applications, we rely on local and national charities and independent domestic abuse advisors (IDVA). Refer to the [Making a Difference toolkit](#) for information about local charities.

Refer to [government guidance on no recourse to public funds](#) for further information.

5.5 Missing from home

Individuals fleeing from HBA and those who may be involved in relocation to another force area may be reported as missing by their families.

Some families will go to considerable lengths to find family members who run away and may use subterfuge to locate and return them. For example, some families may accuse a missing person of a crime (e.g. theft) with the expectation that police will locate the person for them.

The individual's welfare is paramount, and when found their location and whereabouts must not be given to any family member. There may be occasions when someone's family ask a third party, such as a family friend, councillor, GP, MP or someone with influence in the community to request information from the police. The third party may have been given a very plausible reason for needing to know the whereabouts of the person (e.g. illness of a close relative) and the third party may unwittingly think they are helping the victim.

Information about missing people is confidential and should not be shared. If you are in any doubt about such a request, consult your supervisor.

For FM cases, [refer to the Manual of Guidance for the Management of Missing Persons \(section 29\)](#).

5.6 Relocation

Sometimes it is necessary to relocate victims and potential victims of HBA away from their town or city of origin. In these circumstances, the level of threat against a victim may be significant.

Families and communities may attempt to trace and locate victims by reporting them missing and have been known to abduct, assault and imprison victims to ensure compliance.

⁵ Formally the Destitution Domestic Violence Concession

The needs of the victim must also be considered. In escaping HBA, victims almost invariably encounter hostility, rejection and isolation from their families and communities. The effect of a victim exercising their right to escape HBA could mean the loss of family, friends and communities of support. Relocation into another force area therefore makes the victim vulnerable in terms of their emotional support, cultural and educational needs and religious welfare.

Forces relocating victims of FM and HBA will retain ownership of the investigation into offences committed in their area.

Forces receiving such victims of FM and HBA will assess and own the risk and safety planning relating to that victim. Receiving forces will assess the response to this risk in line with any existing force policies e.g. threats to life, domestic abuse and review the overall protection plan for the victim in light of local circumstances.

Where possible, forces should work to minimise the need for police to be involved in the physical process of relocating a victim through the engagement of support groups locally.

5.7 People at risk unit

The people at risk unit (PRU) support individuals who become witnesses and enter the criminal justice system. However, due to the nature of HBA cases, many victims and potential victims do not want to criminalise their families and are not prepared to provide statements or support any prosecution.

Nevertheless, they still suffer serious violence, which often presents a threat to life. Under these circumstances the PRU will, in some cases, offer support and advice.

If any risk assessment indicate a threat to the individual and support is needed, the PRU will assess the case, make recommendations and offer any relevant support available. The PRU can support the individual in the initial stages from making a move to a new area to changing their identity. PRU support available will be explained to the victim along with any potential disclosure to other agencies.

████████████████████ or out of office hours via the force duty officer.

5.8 Applications to restrict National Insurance data

████████████████████
████████████████████
████████████████████

████████████████████ risk to a victim/potential victim is high, the police can instigate this process on their behalf.

Refer to [Appendix F/G](#) for further information.

5.9 Forced Marriage Unit - Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The [Forced Marriage Unit](#) (FMU) provides confidential information and assistance to potential victims and professionals. It works with partners in the UK and overseas to ensure that all appropriate action is taken to prevent a FM taking place.

████████████████████

The FMU are not investigators and should not be expected to take ownership of investigations. Do not leave messages with the unit expecting enquiries to be progressed without direct contact.

Forced Marriage Unit

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

5.10 Fingerprints, DNA and photographs

When dealing with a victim/potential victim of HBA, photographs, fingerprints and DNA samples are protective measures which can address identification issues in potential investigations and protect victims from serious acts of violence, abduction and murder.

It is recommended that victims/potential victims are photographed to assist with any future identification, particularly if the individual is removed to another country. It may be necessary to engage with other agencies such as the policing service of another state and the British Embassy or High Commission of that country in tracing and rescuing a victim. The person must be informed that this may be the case.

If you are dealing with a victim/potential who is 18 years and above, you can lawfully take their fingerprints, DNA and photographs voluntarily. If the person is over 10 years and under 18 years, you will need the child's consent and social worker or guardian who is present.

Current NPCC guidelines prohibit DNA samples being added to the National DNA Database for children under the age of 10.

Refer to [Appendix B](#) for guidance on taking DNA, fingerprints and photographs.

5.11 Locate information marker on PNC

Consider requesting a locate information marker in circumstances where patrol/other officers may need to identify that a victim is at risk of HBA. Consider this if an individual's DNA, photograph and fingerprints have been taken.

- **CID inspector (or inspector and above).** Decide with the investigating officer whether a locate information marker should be placed on PNC. Give authorisation to the investigating officer to request the marker.
- **Investigating officer.** [REDACTED] request the marker.
- **Response officer/airport officer.** If a marker is present, enquire privately with the individual and act immediately to protect them if necessary e.g. if they are being flown out of the country against their will.

Inform CID as soon as possible after speaking to an individual who is subject of a locate information marker and update iOPS.

Criminal records unit

Create a locate/information report as outlined below (amend wording as appropriate):

- The other information page is limited; therefore information needs to be concise. ****Do not disclose location of this victim to any person. Seek advice of force duty officer. Speak to subject alone, out of sight of any person at scene. Potential victim of forced marriage/honour based abuse****
- Include additional details on conditions (this will not appear on the first page).
- The PNC entry created for such individuals will be a locate/information report on the wanted missing pages.
- Any PNC entry must not identify the home address or location of the victim.
- CRU is responsible for the prompt removal of any markers that are no longer required. This will avoid victims being stopped and questioned unnecessarily, for example, when departing from the airport.

Any information passed to officers should be approached sensitively and only when radio channels have been secured so that other people at the scene cannot hear.

5.12 FM or HBA incident involving GMP staff

For any incident involving a GMP officer, special constable or member of police staff, refer to a supervisor and consult the [Domestic Abuse Policy and Procedure](#).

The [REDACTED] applies to all victims and potential victims.

5.13 Legality of non-civil marriages

When two parties enter non-civil marriages such as a religious marriage or commitment ceremony in the UK, it is not legally binding. The couple must have either married in a country where this type of marriage is recognised by law, or they must obtain a UK civil marriage in addition to their religious or commitment ceremony.

If a UK citizen has married a non-UK citizen under law overseas, the UK citizen usually makes an application for the spouse to join them in the UK on a spousal visa. Refer to [government information on family visas](#).

The non-UK citizen spouse usually enters the UK and remains on a spousal visa while the UK citizen supports the spouse in completing their application to remain in the UK. The spousal visa offers some protection to the non-UK citizen whilst they await completion of their right to remain in the UK as a spouse.

Note that victims of FM can include non-UK citizens who have been forced to marry a UK citizen and subsequently join them in the UK.

FM is a criminal offence regardless of whether the marriage is legally binding or not.

6. Associated Documents

[Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 - Forced Marriage Criminal Offence](#)
[APP forced marriage and honour based abuse](#)
[APP investigation process](#)

[Child abuse linked to faith or belief \(National FGM Centre\)](#)
[CPS legal guidance So-Called Honour-Based Abuse](#)
[Domestic Abuse Policy and Procedure](#)
[Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003](#)
[Forced Marriage \(Civil Protection\) Act 2007](#)
[Human Rights Act 1988](#)
[Marriage and Civil Partnership \(Minimum Age\) Act 2022](#)
[Multi-agency practice guidelines: Handling cases of forced marriage](#)
[Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation](#)
[Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#)
[Working together to safeguard children statutory guidance](#)

7 Statutory Compliance and Consultation

7.1 Statutory Compliance

7.1.1 Equality Act (2010)

Click [here](#) to view the Equality Impact Assessment.

Date of SCT meeting where Chief Officers reviewed the EIA	26/6/24
Summary of Chief Officer discussions/considerations at SCT	

State below whether Chief Officers agreed with the EIA or selected a different outcome.

Outcome	EIA recommended	Chief Officer Decision
Approve – no changes. The policy is robust and the evidence shows no potential for discrimination. All appropriate opportunities to advance equality and foster good relations between groups have been taken.	✓	✓
Approve – subject to amends. Changes are required to remove barriers, better advance equality or mitigate potential effects. This should be done before the policy is implemented.		
Approve – continue with policy. Despite any adverse effect or missed opportunities to advance equality, provided that it does not unlawfully discriminate. The objective justification must be recorded.		
Reject – stop the policy. If there are adverse effects that are not justified and cannot be mitigated, or any unlawful discrimination.		

7.1.2 The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018

When processing personal data, GMP must discharge its obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR, which regulates the way in which organisations handle personal data. To reduce risk to the force and to those individuals whose data is held, it is

important that all officers and members of staff are aware of their responsibilities under the Act.

Personal information should only be processed for a legitimate policing purpose, or in support of such a purpose. The policing purposes are: prevention and detection of crime; apprehension and prosecution of offenders; maintenance of law and order; protection of life and property; vetting and licensing; public safety and rendering assistance to members of the public in accordance with force policy.

This policy has been assessed for compliance issues by the Information Compliance and Records Management Unit (ICRMU) and is considered to be compliant with the legislation as there is a clear lawful basis for the processing of personal data and special category data. It should be read in conjunction with GMP's Data Protection Policy and guidance issued on the Data Protection Intranet pages.

For more information on Data Protection refer to the Force Data Protection Policy or consult the ICRMU by emailing [REDACTED]

7.1.3 Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 grants a general right of access to all types of recorded information held by public authorities. As this policy contains policing methods, some parts of it may not be suitable for disclosure. Requests for data will be assessed by the ICRMU considering the harm of disclosure and release into the public domain, in consultation with the policy owner.

For advice and assistance on the Freedom of Information Act, contact the FOI team by using the Freedom of Information mailbox link below. Any requests for the disclosure of this document should also be directed through the ICRMU [Freedom of Information mailbox](#).

[illegible]

[illegible]

8. Appendices

Appendix A

Types of FM incidents coming to police attention

Someone who fears they may be forced to marry in the UK or abroad

- Information about FM may be received from the victim, friend, relative or another agency.
- A victim will have overcome immense cultural and probably personal beliefs to contact the police. It is therefore vital that the police respond immediately and effectively to keep them safe. Some victims may originate from countries where the law supports HBA practices and victims may think that this is also the case in the UK. In all FM cases, the immediate safety of the victim must be the overriding concern.
- FM cases can involve complex and sensitive issues. Inform a response inspector about the incident as soon as possible. Obtain as much information as possible when a case is first reported, as there may not be another opportunity for the person to make contact ([REDACTED]).
- There may be occasions when police are required to establish whether someone is safe while they are still in the UK. In these situations, it is important that police interview them confidentially away from the family home, in a neutral place, where they cannot be influenced or pressured by family members.

Third party report of a FM overseas

- Sometimes a person may be taken overseas on the pretext of a family holiday, wedding or illness of a grandparent. On arrival, their documents and passports may be taken from them. Some even report being drugged by their parents. In these cases, it may be a concerned friend, relative, partner or agency that reports them missing. Such cases may initially be reported to the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU), social care, police, education or a voluntary group.
- As with all cases of FM, confidentiality and discretion are crucial. Before considering contact with overseas organisations, contact the Forced Marriage Unit who can evaluate the risks. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- Risks may arise if police or organisations overseas are contacted directly. If the family becomes aware, they may move the victim to another location and/or expedite the FM.
- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- Reassure the third party that if the person being held overseas wishes to return to the UK (if they are a British national), the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) may be able to repatriate them. The FCDO is obliged to ask the individual, the third party or trusted friends to fund this cost but this should not delay the process of getting the individual to safety.
- There may be occasions when a person is overseas and the FMU asks police to visit the family in the UK to request that the family overseas present the person at the nearest British Embassy or High Commission (if they are a British national). In these situations, the family may suggest that the police officer speaks to the person on the telephone. If this happens, the officer should refuse and insist that the person is presented at the British Embassy or High Commission. There have been occasions when individuals have not been able to talk freely over the telephone or a different person has spoken to the officer.

Legal position

For further information about civil remedies, protection orders, wardship proceedings and other non-criminal legislation, contact GMP legal services.

Appendix B

Fingerprints, DNA and photographs

Ensure that there is an open child or adult welfare care plan (CAP)/DAB and update to confirm that the process has been completed. Add the associated reference numbers (DNA sample ref, property numbers) and information marker Z22 FM HBV Victim. Do not delay completing this process: remember the [REDACTED]

Fingerprints

- [REDACTED]
- I [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- I [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- I [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- I [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- I [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Fingerprint bureau staff

- I [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- I [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

DNA

- [REDACTED]
- I [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- I [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- I [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- I [REDACTED]
- I [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- I [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- I [REDACTED]

GMP forensic services

-
- | Response | Percentage Range |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| U.S. should take action | 85% - 95% |
| U.S. should not take action | 5% - 15% |

Photographs

-
- | Group | Bar 1 (Longest) | Bar 2 (Medium) | Bar 3 (Shortest) |
|-------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1 | ~95% | ~98% | ~92% |
| 2 | ~95% | ~98% | ~65% |
| 3 | ~95% | ~98% | ~75% |
| 4 | ~95% | ~98% | ~92% |

Criminal records unit

-
- | Reason for Leaving | Percentage of Respondents |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Lack of growth opportunities | 35% |
| 2. Poor management | 30% |
| 3. Limited advancement opportunities | 25% |
| 4. Lack of job security | 20% |
| 5. Low salary | 18% |
| 6. Poor work-life balance | 15% |
| 7. Lack of interesting work | 12% |
| 8. Limited training opportunities | 10% |
| 9. Poor company culture | 8% |
| 10. Lack of respect for employees | 5% |

Appendix C

Honour based abuse toolkits

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Appendix D

Forced marriage and female genital mutilation crime recording

Home Office Counting Rules and National Crime Recording Standards

- Accurate crime recording ensures that victims of crime receive the service they expect and deserve. It helps to prioritise effective investigation of crime and informs the public of the scale, scope and risk of crime in their local community. It also enables police forces to understand demand and the associated costs of service delivery.
- Statistics do not represent the true scale of FM and FGM. It remains hidden and underreported.
- FM and FGM are offences in their own right:
Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 - FM is a criminal offence.
Serious Crime Act 2015 - FGM is a criminal offence.
- Staff may fail to submit a crime report for FM due to a misunderstanding on whether the marriage is legal or not. A crime report for FM must be recorded upon the suspicion or allegation that a FM has, or is, about to happen. A crime report for FGM must be recorded upon the suspicion or allegation that FGM has, or is, about to happen.

FM crime recording standard

- A FM crime is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities or reduced capacity, cannot) consent to the marriage as they are pressurised, or abuse is used, to force them to do so.
- A crime for FM must be recorded whether a marriage is completed or not.
- Whether the intended FM is civilly recognised or not is irrelevant.
- A crime includes pressure put on people to marry against their will including:
 - physical e.g. threats, physical violence or sexual violence
 - emotional and psychological e.g. making someone feel like they are bringing 'shame' on their family.
- Where a victim (UK national) is taken outside of the UK to be forced into marriage, a crime of FM must be recorded. Where a victim (UK national) is already outside of the UK and being forced into a marriage, a crime of FM must be recorded.
- Any completed FM requires a crime to be recorded. Forcing someone to marry can result in a sentence of up to seven years imprisonment. Refer to [government guidance on forced marriage](#) for further information.

FGM crime recording standard

- At the point of disclosure of FGM, whether completed or suspected to happen in future, requires a crime to be recorded.
- Wherever a procedure amounts to excision, infibulation or mutilation of the genitalia is a question of fact, a crime should be recorded.
- Where a victim (UK national) is already outside of the UK for the purpose of FGM, a crime should be recorded.
- Any completed FGM require a crime to be recorded. For the definition of a girl according to the Female Genital Mutilation Act (2003) refer to [section 6](#).

Appendix E

Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation Orders

- Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPO) and Female Genital Mutilation Orders (FGMPO) are applied for at the local family court. Orders to protect children should be applied for by children's social care.
- Anyone can apply for a court order, even if the child is under 18. Orders for adults can be applied for by a relative or friend; a voluntary worker or other official who has been asked for help, or any other person with the permission of the court.
- **If the police are helping to obtain an order, inform GMP legal services to start the process.**
- To support an order, a statement is usually required to substantiate the elements of FM and FGM.
- Conditions can be itemised on the order for the courts to consider; these can strengthen the protection plan for the victim.
- Depending on the length of the order granted, advise the victim of its implications, such as the potential of being stopped at a port or border which may hinder any travel out of the UK. Remind victims to inform the police about any future change of circumstances.
- Orders are not exclusive to UK citizens providing the victim is within the UK. However, orders are only applicable to UK citizens outside of the UK and in need of protection.
- It is important to serve orders correctly on respondents (suspects), ensuring that a statement of service is completed by the serving officer. This statement and a copy of the order must be emailed to [REDACTED] before retiring from duty. Do not delay or postpone this process as the order cannot be uploaded to PNC until completed, thus rendering it useless.
- For further information, refer to government information on how to apply for [forced marriage protection orders](#) and [female genital mutilation orders](#).

Overseas victims

- Inform FMU about the international dimension of the investigation.
- If the respondents are overseas, an order can be served over the telephone if the identity of the respondent can be established. This may be achieved by identifying and serving an order on a respondent available in the UK suspected to be associated to the offence. Contact GMP legal services for advice.

Appendix F

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[REDACTED]

Appendix G

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Risk assessment

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Appendix H

Airport staff repatriation protocols

Repatriation is where someone returns to their country of origin. In cases of FM this is where a victim returns to the UK with the assistance of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), having been forced to marry someone abroad.

Sometimes the FCO will ask the police for assistance when an individual is repatriated to the UK from overseas. In some cases the police will be asked to assist other agencies, such as social services, when they are meeting an individual.

Due to the urgency of the situation, the FCO may only give the police limited notice of the individual's arrival. The FCO will ask the police to meet the individual on arrival to protect them from family members. Many cases are reported by the FCO to the airport chaplain who then has a responsibility to inform the police of the incident to secure a safe passage for the victim from the airport.

Force Contact, Crime and Operations Branch

- Generate an incident log opening code D05 and/or C13 if FM or FGM is involved:
 - the incident log should include flight information, the individual's details, intended destination etc as outlined [here](#).
 - endorse the incident log to state that information should not be revealed without relevant authority of an inspector having risk assessed the incident.
 - tag the incident for the attention of the force duty officer.
 - notify the chaplain of the incident if not already aware.
 - notify the duty inspector.
- Deploy an officer using the [Incident Response Policy](#)
- Escalate any incidents not resourced within the identified timeframes to the Bronze commander.
- Do not close the incident until contact has been made with the victim and a risk assessment carried out, whether at first point of contact or by the attending officer.
- Close all HBA related incidents with C58/C59 closing codes and either D61 or D62.
- FM incidents require a C13 code (other crimes).
- Ensure any other relevant incident/crime code is included.

Constable

Row	Bar Length (approx. % of total width)
1	85
2	35
3	98
4	92
5	95
6	88
7	97
8	55
9	93
10	10
11	98
12	30
13	85
14	100
15	100
16	15

-
- | Group | U.S. should take action | U.S. should not take action | U.S. should take action, but only if other countries do first |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| All respondents | 85% | 10% | 5% |
| U.S. respondents | 88% | 8% | 4% |
| Non-U.S. respondents | 82% | 12% | 6% |

Sergeant

- Allocate a response officer to the incident.
- Contact attending police/agencies to make arrangements for handing the victim over.
- Inform CID and check for any history relating to the individual.
- Ensure the airport chaplain arranges refuge accommodation if required and funded by the FCO where necessary.
- Ensure the reporting officer takes effective action.

Inspector

- Conduct a risk assessment on the individual being repatriated.
- Liaise with the residing police force or district if required.
- Consider a police protection order if the person is under 18 years old.
- If the individual is not being transported by the police or a partner agency, ensure that the person transporting the individual is appropriately risk assessed and the victim is willing for that person to transport them.
- Consider if any other issues at [section 6](#) need to be addressed and take action as appropriate.