



Ministry
of Justice

Domestic Abuse Policy
Ministry of Justice
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By email to:

Law Society
Resolution
Family Law Bar Association
Legal Aid Practitioners Group
Bar Council
Law Centres Network
Criminal Bar Association
Criminal Law Solicitors' Association
Cilex
London Criminal Courts Solicitors' Association

24 September 2024

DOMESTIC ABUSE PROTECTION NOTICE AND ORDER PILOT

We are writing to update you on the Government's intention to launch the Domestic Abuse Protection Notice (DAPN) and Domestic Abuse Protection Order pilot from November this year in Greater Manchester, three Boroughs in South London (Croydon, Sutton and Bromley) and with the British Transport Police.

The DAPO brings together the strongest elements of existing orders and the intention is for the DAPN/DAPO to be the go-to protective notice and order for all cases of domestic abuse. The DAPO can place firmer conditions on the perpetrator than other currently available protective orders, such as electronic monitoring ("tagging") and positive requirements, for example mandating attendance on a behaviour change or substance misuse programme. Breach of a DAPO will be a criminal offence. Launching this important pilot will allow us to test a new, innovative order that will be available across the criminal, family, and civil jurisdictions.

We look forward to continuing our work with our operational partners to prepare for the pilot launch and are pleased to confirm that the necessary court rules and procedures are now in place for all jurisdictions and have been published. Family Pilot Practice Direction is available as part of Family PD (update no.4) - [Family Procedure Rules – Justice UK](#); Civil Pilot Practice Direction - Civil PD (update no.167) – [Civil Procedure Rules \(justice.gov.uk\)](#); [The Magistrates' Courts \(Amendment\) Rules 2024 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#); [The Crown Court \(Amendment\) Rules 2024 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#) and [The Criminal Procedure \(Amendment No. 2\) Rules 2022 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#).

We are currently reviewing and updating the guidance and information products we previously shared with you, as well as products aimed at other audiences. We will write to you shortly with the latest version of guidance for legal professionals, as we recognise that this will be of most interest to your members. As you may be aware, the Home Office had concluded its public consultation on the statutory guidance for the police, and a final version will be published ahead of pilot launch.

In anticipation of pilot launch, the Legal Aid Agency also consulted with the representative bodies in the spring on the necessary contract changes for DAPO. The consultation response and revised contract will be published shortly, as will updated guidance to support legal aid firms to undertake DAPO work.

As always, if you do have any questions or queries, in terms of the policy context for DAPOs and how they are intended to work in practice, we would be more than happy to assist. The Legal Aid Agency, together with the legal aid policy team, will remain your first point of contact for legal aid matters.

Yours sincerely

Maja Vojnovic

On behalf of the DAPO Implementation Team

The Ministry of Justice Domestic Abuse Policy Team