

Audio-recording enabled domestic abuse alarms to prevent domestic violence protection order (DVPO) violation: A feasibility study and process evaluation

Pilot study to evaluate the impact of a combined audio-recording enabled domestic abuse alarm and a deterrence notice on breaches of domestic violence protection orders (DVPOs).

Key details

Status	Complete
Lead institution	University of Hull
Principal researcher(s)	Iain Brennan i.brennan@hull.ac.uk
Police region	North East
Collaboration and partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicola O'Leary (University of Hull) • David Rowlands (University of Leeds) • Jana Kujundzic (Northumbria University)
Level of research	Professional/work based
Project start date	September 2021
Date completed	August 2023

Hypothesis

1. Within 28 days of a domestic violence protection order (DVPO) being made and victims being offered an alarm, a breach of the Order is less likely to be recorded when the perpetrator

receives a letter about the alarm than when the perpetrator does not receive a letter about the alarm.

2. Within 28 days of a DVPO being made and victims being offered an alarm, a call for service to the home of the victim is less likely to be recorded when the perpetrator receives a letter about the alarm than when the perpetrator does not receive a letter about the alarm.
3. Within 28 days of a DVPO being made and victims being offered an alarm, a domestic abuse crime associated with the victim or partner is less likely to be recorded when the perpetrator receives a letter about the alarm than when the perpetrator does not receive a letter about the alarm.

Geographical area

Humberside

Target sample size

150

Participants - inclusion criteria

The population of interest are a dyad ('abuser' and 'victim'), both resident in the Humberside police force area, who are the subjects of a domestic violence protection order (DVPO) issued in the months October 2021 to February 2022 (inclusive). All dyads in the population are eligible for the intervention.

Interventions

Treatment: A deterrence letter to the abuser about the offer of a domestic abuse alarm that can provide information for use in victimless prosecution, and the offer of the domestic abuse alarm to the victim.

Control: the offer of the domestic abuse alarm to the victim.

Study design

Basic randomised comparing treatment to control.

Outcome measures

- breach of a DVPO (primary outcome)
- call for service to the victim's address
- police-recorded crime