Investigation

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First published 16 September 2015 Updated 30 March 2026

Investigators should follow the guidance set out in the **Investigation APP** and the **conducting effective investigations guidelines**. When investigating domestic abuse, officers should look beyond the immediate offence to identify any underlying patterns of abusive behaviour. They should conduct investigations that are victim-centred, suspect-focused and context-led.

Some domestic abuse cases may involve linked crime types or safeguarding concerns that require additional investigative considerations. Officers should refer to:

- **Appendix A** for guidance on offences that commonly overlap with domestic abuse
- **Appendix B** where victim?specific vulnerabilities may influence risk, engagement or investigative strategy
- quick access checklists in **Appendix C** – these may assist officers when planning or reviewing investigative actions, but should always be used alongside the detailed guidance in this APP

Effective communication is central to maintaining trust and cooperation. Officers should explain their actions and decisions to the victim. This may include:

- why they are speaking with children
- obtaining medical evidence
- requesting consent for information sharing
- ensuring that victims are kept informed of developments throughout the investigation

Investigation should proceed in parallel with other **positive actions** to enhance victim safety, including:

- domestic violence protection notices and orders (DVPNs and DVPOs)
- **civil orders**
- **victim and safety support**

An effective investigation requires developing the following, where appropriate, in accordance with national and local protocols:

- policy file
- disclosure plan
- surveillance plan
- victim care plan
- witness management plan
- suspect management plan

Where a case attracts or is likely to attract media interest, go to **communication strategy.**

Tags

APP   Domestic abuse