



**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**
for Leicester,
Leicestershire & Rutland
Your Communities - Your Commissioner

Date: 13th January 2023

Dear Mr Wilsher,

I write to you on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner, in response to the Tees Valley Inclusion Project's super-complaint, 'How the police response to victims of sexual abuse when the victim is from an ethnic minority background and may be at risk of honour-based abuse' published on the 16th of December 2022.

As Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, I was very troubled to learn the extent of the inefficiencies within policing regarding the vulnerability of victims from ethnic minority backgrounds who are at risk of honour-based violence. Leicester is a City which for many years has proudly celebrated its wonderfully rich cultural diversity. We know that this is also reflected within Leicestershire Police where officers from all backgrounds share the common goal of keeping the streets safer for communities, and do so with pride. However, the concerns raised within the super-complaint regarding a lack of data collection and consequentially an unclear picture of the true scale of harm against victims from ethnic minority backgrounds was deeply worrying.

Leicestershire Police have made significant progress over the last 5 years in reducing their numbers of unrecorded ethnicity (reduced by almost 40%), however the Commissioner and I are committed to seeing further improvement while we are in office, and we will monitor the progress in our Corporate Governance Boards in which evidence of improvement will be requested from the Chief Constable.

The following recommendation to Police and Crime Commissioner's was outlined within the super-complaint:

"Both police and crime commissioners (PCCs) and community safety partnerships include a consultation process as part of their work to identify their priorities. PCCs should make sure this consultation process is inclusive and representative of the whole community before commissioning services for victims.

PCCs should then work with local police, safeguarding partners and specialist support organisations to understand the needs of ethnic minority victims of sexual abuse who may be at risk of honour-based abuse. PCCs should consider these needs when commissioning local support services. The aim of this is to give victims the confidence to report incidents, to feel safe and empowered, and to stay involved in any investigation and prosecution."



The Commissioner and I accept the recommendation made in full. As the lead for Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), I assure the public that the conversations regarding victims of sexual abuse from ethnic and minority backgrounds will be integrated into our VAWG approach.

I am proud of the exceptional Commissioning and Procurement team in our office, and I am pleased to report the following:

- For any victim's services commissioned by this office, prior to undertaking any procurement exercise, the commissioning team consults with the incumbent provider, previous service users and stakeholders both internally and externally to assess the requirements and priorities of the service;
- The commissioning team produce an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) of each service commissioned and request a copy of any Equality and Diversity policies/any other relevant documentation from interested bidders and this is assessed as part of the procurement process;

During Rupert Matthew's time in office, we have partnered with many fantastic organisations through the Commissioner's Safety Fund – a highly successful grant scheme which provides funding to community projects and ultimately helps to reduce the risk of crime and abuse and increase public safety. Organisations which have successfully secured funding include the African Network, Somali Development Services, and the Zinithiya Trust, among others. The Zinithiya Trust for example is an outstanding organisation who support women and girls who are either experiencing currently or are at risk of experiencing all varying forms of abuse by providing extensive, bespoke support and guidance; The African Network has an excellent violence prevention programme to educate young people on the role of the criminal justice system and deters individuals from being perpetrators of crime; The Somali Development Services operates as a community interest company and endeavours to safeguard the well-being and human rights of Somali people and other new arrivals in Leicester City through advice, empowerment and support.

Our process for commissioning these services is both robust and supportive, and we are in the process of creating a monitoring framework to fully understand the impact these services have on residents of Leicester. I am proud of the work our office undertakes and the processes we have in place for funding the exceptional charities and organisations who do such honourable work. Our commissioning team will continue to ensure that the procurement process is equal and fair and that we are funding services which provide outstanding support to victims in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rani Mahal'.

Rani Mahal
Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland