

Deputy Chief Constable Amanda Blakeman

20 July 2022

Dear Deputy Chief Constable

Inquiry into Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence – migrant women

Thank you for giving evidence to the Committee on June 27th as part of our inquiry. We were grateful for both your time and the written evidence you submitted in advance of the session.

As we approach the reporting stage of our inquiry, we would be grateful if you could provide us with additional detail regarding the training that staff receive on supporting migrant women who are victims of sexual and gender-based violence. We would like to know who receives this training and when they receive it, for example whether it is delivered as part of initial training or on a rolling basis. We would specifically like information on the training that frontline officers receive around:

- language, particularly in relation to how police source interpretation for victims where English is not their first language;
- data, and data sharing, including how this is communicated to migrant victims of violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence;
- cultural issues, such as forced marriage, and so-called honour-based violence; and
- referral, i.e. knowing when, how and where to refer once a case has been identified.


During an engagement session we held in Swansea, we heard positive examples of how referrals to specialist services had worked. How are such examples of best practice shared to ensure a consistent approach across Wales?

As noted during our evidence session, data sharing has been a recurring element of our inquiry and, in particular, concerns about whether a victim's immigration status would be shared with other agencies. We would be grateful if you could share your view on the implications for Welsh police forces of any proposals for a data firewall.

We also welcomed your commitment during the evidence session to providing further information on the conviction rate for repeat perpetrators, and we look forward to receiving this information in due course.

Since we met, the response to the super complaint by the Centre for Women's Justice was published on June 30th. What relevance, if any, does this report have on the way Welsh police forces handle complaints against serving police officers and in particular any complaints where migrant women are the complainants?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jenny Rathbone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'J' and a trailing flourish.

Jenny Rathbone MS

Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee