

A vertical arrangement of pink cherry blossom branches on the left side of the page, with flowers in various stages of bloom. The background is a light grey gradient.

# -The Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme

This leaflet is for you if you are concerned that someone you know may be in a relationship and is at risk of domestic violence

Keeping People Safe from Domestic Abuse

**STATES OF  
JERSEY POLICE**



# What is this Scheme?

The aim of this scheme is to give members of the public a formal mechanism to make enquiries about an individual who they are in a relationship with or who is in a relationship with someone they know, and there is a concern that the individual may be abusive towards their partner.

If police checks show that the individual has a record of abusive offences, or there is other information to indicate the person you know is at risk, the police will consider sharing this information with the person(s) best placed to protect the potential victim.

The States of Jersey Police will discuss your concerns with you and decide whether it is appropriate for you to be given more information to help protect the person who is in the relationship with the individual you are concerned about.

The scheme aims to enable potential victims to make an informed choice on whether to continue the relationship, and provides help and support to assist the potential victim when making that informed choice.

# Who can ask for a disclosure?

A disclosure under this Scheme is the sharing of specific information about an individual with the person making the application or a third person for the purposes of protecting a potential victim from domestic violence.

- Anyone can make an application about an individual who is in an intimate relationship with another person and where there is a concern that the individual may harm the other person
- Any concerned third party, such as a parent, neighbour or friend can make an application not just the potential victim; however,
- A third party making an application would not necessarily receive the information about the individual concerned. It may be more appropriate for someone else to receive the information such as the victim or another person who is best placed to protect the potential victim.

# How do I make an application?

It is important to remember that anyone can make an application to the police about an individual who is in an intimate relationship with another person and there is a concern that the individual may present a risk of harm to their partner.

## Contacting the police

### You can

- Visit Police Headquarters and ask to speak to a member of the Public Protection Unit
- Phone Public Protection Unit on 612240

**If you believe there is an immediate risk of harm to someone, or it is an emergency, you should always call 999.**

The background of the page features a large, faint watermark of the States of Jersey Police crest. The crest is circular with a blue border containing the text 'STATES OF JERSEY' at the top and 'POLICE' at the bottom. Inside the circle is a red shield with a white lion passant guardant. Above the shield is a crown with a cross on top. The entire crest is surrounded by a white, leaf-like border.

don't be silent  
REPORT DOMESTIC ABUSE

# Initial contact with the Police

When you contact the police, a police officer or a member of police staff will take details from you of what prompted your enquiry and the nature of your relationship with the potential victim and their partner.

**They will also ask you when and where it is safe to make contact with you again.**

You will also need to give your name, address and date of birth. At a later stage, you will need to provide proof of your identity.

The police will run some initial checks based on the information you have provided and conduct an initial risk assessment.

The purpose of these initial checks is for the police to establish if there are any immediate concerns.

These checks will not be undertaken while you are present.

If speaking to the police you allege that a crime has taken place– for example, if you say that you witnessed someone hit their partner, then the police may investigate this as a crime and may arrest the partner.

**If the police believe that someone is at risk and in need of protection from harm, they will take immediate action.**

No disclosure of information will take place at this stage unless it is necessary for the immediate protection of the potential victim.



# Face to face meeting to complete the application

Depending on the outcome of initial contact with the Police, you may then be required to participate in a face to face meeting. This meeting will be to establish further details about your application in order to assess any risk and for you to provide proof of your identity. This should comprise of a photo ID and another form of ID (if photo ID is not available, the police will consider other forms of ID).

The forms of ID that could be used are:

- Your passport
- Your driving licence
- A household utility bill
- Your bank statement
- Your birth certificate

The police will use this meeting to gather more information from you about the nature of the relationship between the person you are concerned about and their partner. They may also ask for further information from you on why you have made an enquiry under this Scheme.

The police may run checks and speak to other agencies including the Prison Service, the Probation Service and Social Services based on the information you give them.

They will work as quickly as possible to complete the checks but, depending on the circumstances, some checks may take longer for the results to be received by the police.

It is envisaged that the maximum time that it will take to complete the whole process, including these and the disclosure of information if decided necessary, is 35 days.

**The police will act immediately if at any point they consider the potential victim to be at risk and in need of protection from harm.**

# Potential Disclosure

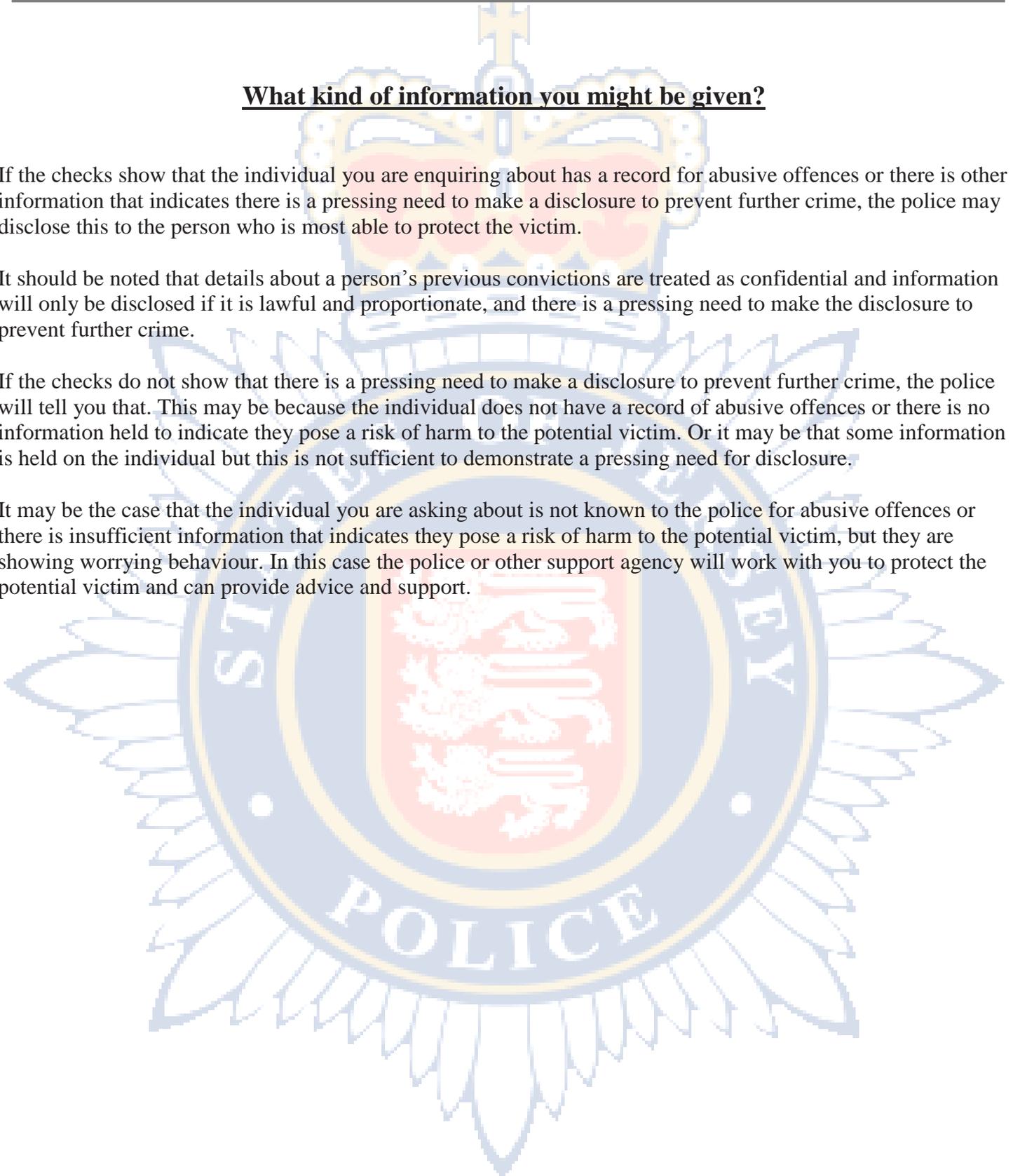
## What kind of information you might be given?

If the checks show that the individual you are enquiring about has a record for abusive offences or there is other information that indicates there is a pressing need to make a disclosure to prevent further crime, the police may disclose this to the person who is most able to protect the victim.

It should be noted that details about a person's previous convictions are treated as confidential and information will only be disclosed if it is lawful and proportionate, and there is a pressing need to make the disclosure to prevent further crime.

If the checks do not show that there is a pressing need to make a disclosure to prevent further crime, the police will tell you that. This may be because the individual does not have a record of abusive offences or there is no information held to indicate they pose a risk of harm to the potential victim. Or it may be that some information is held on the individual but this is not sufficient to demonstrate a pressing need for disclosure.

It may be the case that the individual you are asking about is not known to the police for abusive offences or there is insufficient information that indicates they pose a risk of harm to the potential victim, but they are showing worrying behaviour. In this case the police or other support agency will work with you to protect the potential victim and can provide advice and support.



# Your Right to Know

Under the Scheme, you may receive a disclosure even if you have not asked for one. That is because, if the police receive information about the person you know which they consider puts that person at risk of harm of domestic abuse by their partner, then they may consider disclosing that information if you are the best placed person to protect the victim.

The decision to disclose information when you have not asked for a disclosure will be made by the Police and the disclosure will only be made if it is lawful and proportionate and there is a pressing need to make the disclosure to prevent further crime.

## Important note

You should be aware that police checks or any disclosures made are not a guarantee of safety. The police will give you advice on how to protect the potential victim and how to recognise the warning signs of domestic abuse. They will also make sure you are aware of what local and national support is available.

## After you are given information:

*“Can I tell my family and friends about this? I really need to talk to someone.”*

If you receive a disclosure, it should be treated as confidential. It is only being given to you so that you can take steps to protect the potential victim. You must not share this information with anyone else unless you have spoken to the police, or the person who gave you the information, and they have agreed with you that it will be shared.

Subject to the condition that the information is kept confidential, you can:

- use the information to keep the potential victim and yourself safe
- use the information to keep any children involved in the situation safe
- ask what support is available
- ask for advice on how to keep yourself and others safe

The police may decide not to give you information if they think that you will discuss it with others.

The police may take action against you if the information is disclosed without their consent, which could include civil or criminal proceedings.

The police can provide you with information and advice on how to protect someone from violent behaviour and how to recognise the warning signs of domestic abuse. There are also a number of specialist services and organisations providing information about domestic abuse, how to spot it and how to work with the authorities to intervene.

# Support helplines

- You can contact Police Headquarters on 612612
- In an emergency always ring 999.

If you would like additional help and support on domestic abuse, then you can contact any of the following services:

## **Local Helplines:-**

- Women's Refuge 08007356836
- Victim Support 440496
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisors 880505

## **National Helplines:-**

- Women's Domestic Abuse Helpline 0161 636 7525
- Broken Rainbow 0300 999 5428
- Men's Advice Line 0808 801 0327
- Stalking Helpline 0808 802 0300



