

2134354 - ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Data from Gwent Domestic Violence Team

The following questions were sent to DV team:

1. What, if anything, can you tell me about how Gwent's DV policy was drafted?
2. How often is the policy set up for review?
3. How do you measure whether it is being followed across the force?
4. What is the training programme for officers across the force? Who gets trained? How do you measure how well the policy is understood?

As at the time of writing, no response has been received. I am actively pursuing this.

Survey Data from Employees of Gwent Police

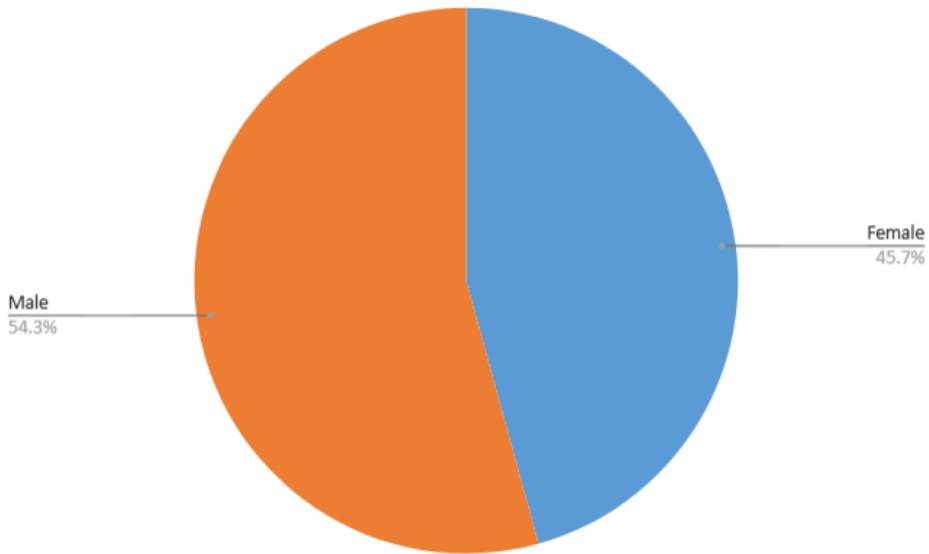
A survey was sent out force-wide as follows:

What is your length of service?	Drop-down
Which age bracket are you in?	Drop-down
What is your gender?	Drop-down
Which department do you work in? E.g. Response, CID...	Free text
How often do you have involvement with Domestic Violence related incidents?	Drop-down
What type of involvement do you have in Domestic Violence incidents?	Free text
Are you aware there is a force DV policy?	Drop-down
Do you know where to find a copy of the force DV policy?	Drop-down
Have you received training on Domestic Violence?	Drop-down
What training have you received on DV?	Free text
How long ago did you receive this training?	Free text
Have you received refresher training?	Drop-down
If yes above, which input have you received refresher training on?	Free text
How effective/useful did you find the training you have received? (1 not useful - 5 extremely useful)	Drop-down
What barriers, if any, do you experience when dealing with Domestic Violence?	Free text
How would you respond differently to male-instigator and female-instigator Domestic Violence incidents?	Free text
If you could change one thing about how Gwent Police responds to DV, what would it be?	Free text

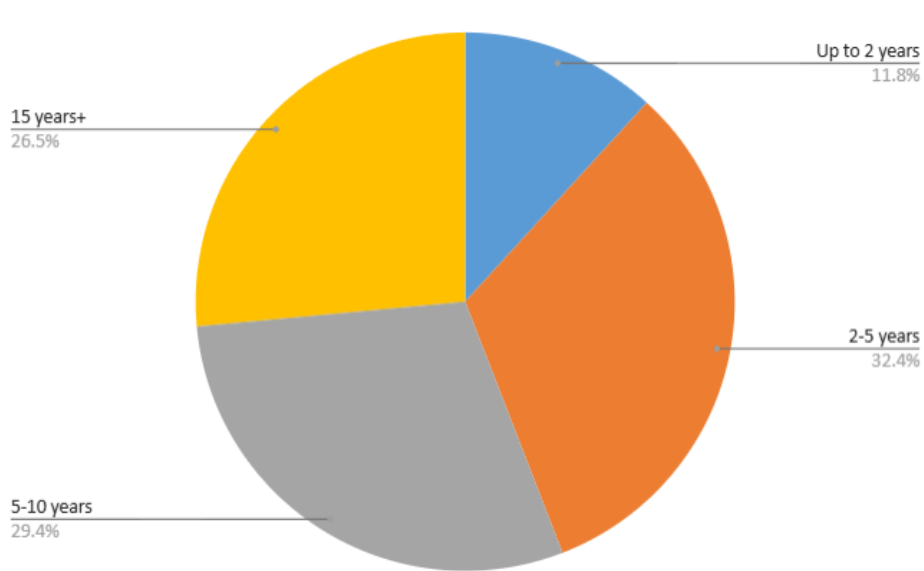
35 responses were received.

Demographic breakdown

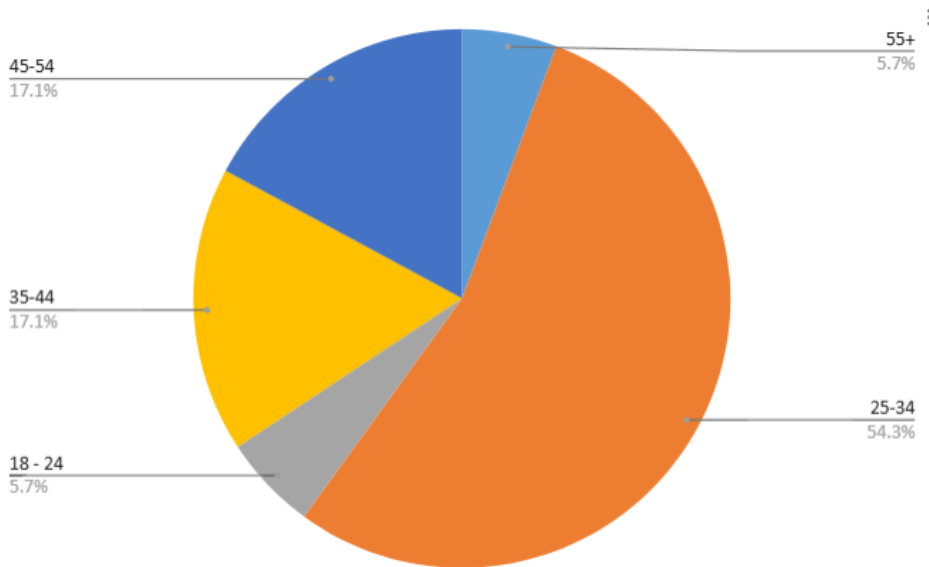
Sex of respondents



Length of Service

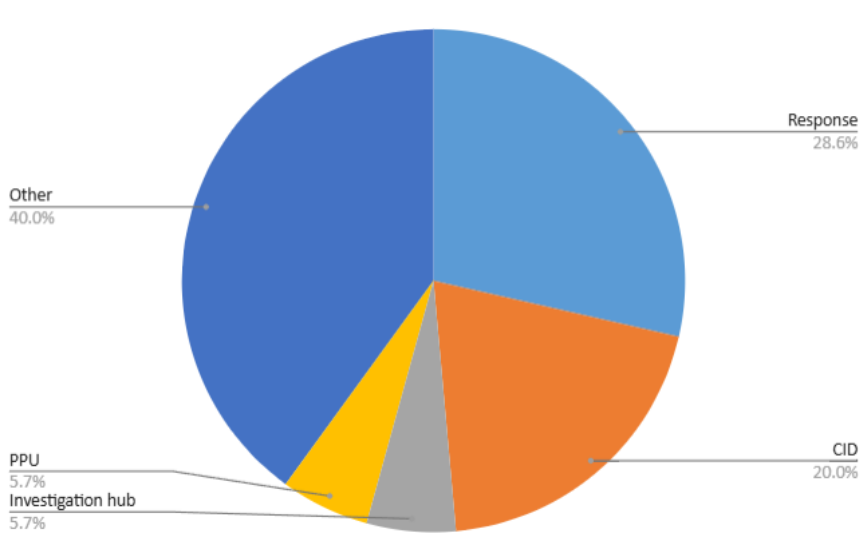


Age



Teams

The commonest team that responded was Response - these are the officers who deal with calls made. The second commonest was CID.



There were several free text boxes.



Categorising Responses for Analysis

After reading, the various reasons given were initially categorised using an intuitive model. Categories were Victim, Process, Training, Politics, Evidence, Time, Safeguarding. There were obviously some overlaps within these. However, these were again fed into a word cloud generator and a picture emerged that whereas it might have been expected that a lack of time was the issue, in fact the problems were often ones categorised more accurately as process related. This did not add much else.

Use of Large Language Model

Based on the analysis of the responses about barriers in dealing with domestic violence cases, here are the key findings:

Main Barriers Identified:

1. Victim Engagement Issues:

- Lack of victim cooperation is the most frequently cited barrier
- Victims often unwilling to pursue formal complaints
- Trust issues between victims and police
- Difficulties obtaining victim consent for evidence collection

2. Evidence Challenges:

- Problems with evidence-led prosecutions
- Lack of supporting evidence
- Issues with undermining material
- Challenges when victims retract statements

3. Support System Issues:

- Limited family support
- Neighbor reluctance to get involved
- Problems with witness cooperation
- Inter-departmental coordination challenges

4. Legal/Procedural Barriers:

- Custody-related issues
- Complications with bail conditions, especially when children are involved
- Concerns about poor sentencing outcomes
- Challenges with compelling witnesses to attend court

5. Systemic Challenges:

- Inter-departmental disputes over case ownership
- Resource limitations
- Procedural complexities

Figure 2 Key findings of barriers to dealing with DV using a Large Language Model

Cross checking whether this categorisation was fair was difficult when working alone. For this reason, as suggested by Tai et al., 2024, a Large Language Model (LLM) (Claude) was also consulted with the query “looking at [the data] what themes or patterns emerge?” This identified similar patterns, but interestingly did not intuit training issues. This might indicate my own bias in looking at whether there was sufficient training, but also the LLM might not recognise things like “officers are not confident” as indicating a training need, even though it seems fair to interpret it that way. There are also two areas - support system issues and systemic challenges - with considerable overlap.

This indicates one of the problems with using a LLM. I felt that this cross-check indicated that my intuition was broadly fair, but “resource constraints” seemed a fair category to include.

Detailed breakdown of this data

17/35 (49%) respondents used phrases like “lack of victim engagement” or “lack of victim support”. The word “victim” is used 33 times, compared with “evidence” 10 times and “support” 8 times.

Only 9/35 (26%) had lack of victim engagement as the sole reason, so while it features strongly, most officers on this dataset appear to think that there is at least something else.

Interestingly, women respondents were more likely to cite victims’ lack of cooperation (85%) compared with male respondents (57%).

There was a strong correlation between perception of barriers and length of service. For example, 75% of officers with 1-2 years service (n=4) replied “none”. Officers with greater seniority, in the 5 or more years range (n=17), gave a wider variety of reasons and tended to cite multiple reasons. 95% of respondents with 2-10 years’ service mentioned victim cooperation as an issue, while the most experienced officers (15+ years’ service) were more likely to mention resource constraints.

A number of respondents also mentioned things that suggested training as an issue. This varied from not knowing how to deal with victims (for example...) to charging with the wrong offence or failing to gather sufficient evidence. One respondent, however, said that the failure to gather sufficient evidence was not a training issue - he felt that the CPS standards were too high, saying “....”

Within the “victim” category there was also considerable variation. For example, some officers were concerned about the victim; some found the victims withdrew; and some felt DV was not really worth pursuing as victims so often withdrew.

Seven responses mentioned resource-related issues, such as lack of time, inability to gather evidence, and issues at the custody suite.

Gender Bias

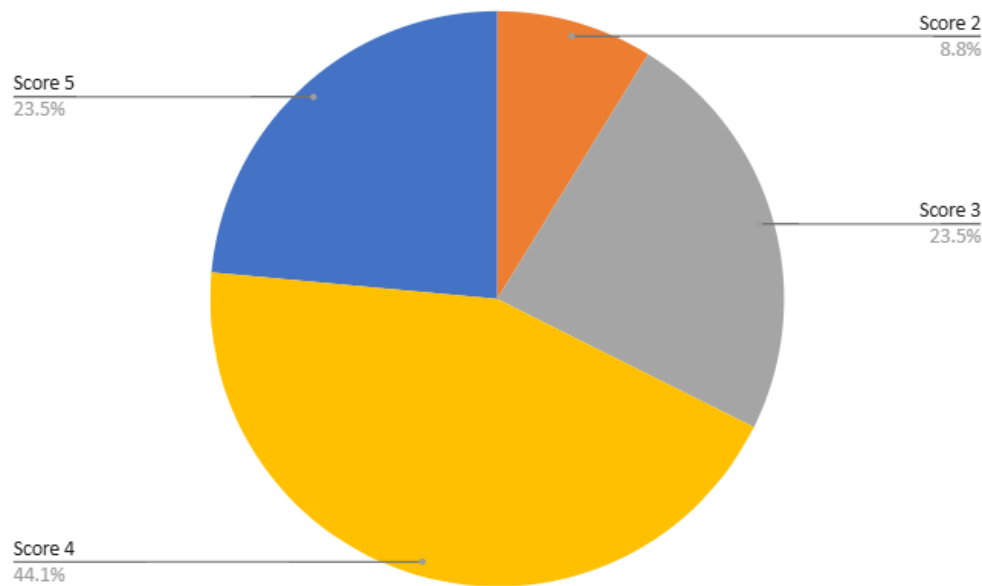
Only 9% of respondents said that they would treat a complaint differently if it was made by a man as opposed to a woman.

One - a call handler - said that they would be more reassuring to a male complainant.

Two, notably, said that where there was a female alleged perpetrator they would try to be mindful of the possibility of a bigger picture.

Perceptions of training

Overall, perceptions of training were high. Only one officer, a senior with 15+ years' service said they had not been trained in DV, so around 97% of officers who responded had been trained. The average score of 3.82 was high, where 1 = poor and 5 = very good. 8 officers ranked the training as 5, none ranked it 1. Only one officer ranked the training as 2, with a comment elsewhere indicating that they felt the training should take place in duty time suggesting their issues were possibly procedural. Most respondents had received multiple iterations of training in various modules. Only one respondent mentioned refresher training, and they were a trainer.



Question: What would you change?

The responses to this were the longest - 1165 words in total compared with 885 for the responses to the “barriers” question. Similar methods were used to those in assessing perceptions of barriers. The length of responses indicated reflectiveness on the part of the respondents and a keenness to improve.

Needing more time or resources was a repeated theme (13/35) - interesting as this was not really perceived as a barrier; maybe a lack of time is simply taken as read. A plurality of respondents (about 40%) wanted a more victim-led approach.

Figure 3 Word cloud of what people would change