

Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS)



The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) is a way to find information about whether a person has an abusive past. It gives people at risk of Domestic Abuse the information needed to make an informed decision on whether to continue the relationship.

DSDAS operates across Scotland and is managed by Police Scotland.

For further information about the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland, including how to submit an application, [visit the Police Scotland website](#).



Who can apply?

A request can be made by:

- The person in the relationship.
- A family member.
- A friend.
- A neighbour.
- A professional.
- Any other person with concerns about someone's safety.

Police Scotland can only disclose to the person who is at risk. If you're making the application for someone else, a disclosure cannot be made to you.

When will Police Scotland make a disclosure?

Police Scotland only make a disclosure after:

- All factors are considered
- The threat has been assessed carefully
- Information exists that indicates a person may be at risk of abuse.
- The person at risk is in a relationship with the abuser or is likely to resume a relationship with the abuser.

Police Scotland may also speak to other agencies to make sure a disclosure is the right option.



How to apply?

Applications can be made by:

- [Completing the online DSDAS application form](#).
- Calling Police Scotland on 101.
- Visiting a local police station.

If there is an immediate risk of harm, always contact Police Scotland on 999.

When might a DSDAS be relevant?

Professionals may wish to consider DSDAS where:

- A victim-survivor expresses concerns about a current partner.
- Family members or friends are worried about someone's safety within a relationship.
- Information suggests a pattern of concerning, controlling or abusive behaviour.
- A professional believes someone may be at risk of domestic abuse and could benefit from speaking with Police Scotland about the scheme.
- A person is seeking information to help them make informed decisions about their safety.

DSDAS should be considered as one potential safeguarding option alongside wider risk assessment, support and safety planning measures.

DSDAS and MARAC

DSDAS and MARAC are separate processes with different purposes.

DSDAS is a Police Scotland safeguarding process that enables information to be disclosed where this is necessary to protect someone from domestic abuse.

MARAC is a multi-agency process used to identify, assess and manage the risk of serious harm in high-risk domestic abuse cases.

A MARAC may identify that a DSDAS application could contribute to a victim-survivor's safety plan. In these circumstances, progressing a DSDAS application may form part of the agreed action plan.

Professionals do not need to wait for a case to be discussed at MARAC before considering DSDAS. Where domestic abuse has been identified, a DSDAS application may be an appropriate safeguarding option as part of the wider safeguarding response. Where the level of risk also meets the threshold for MARAC, professionals may decide to submit both a MARAC referral and a DSDAS application.

Access to DSDAS is not dependent on a MARAC referral. All agencies should be aware of the scheme and consider whether it may be appropriate as part of their wider safeguarding response.



Contact Us

Visit the SafeLives website to find out more about our work, access a range of resources for professionals, and explore our training and support.

Please contact Scotland@SafeLives.org.uk for further information or questions in relation to this resource.

