

Does your force provide training for officers to investigate complaints of online abuse? If yes, can you give an overview of the training given?

Does your force provide any internal guidance to police officers investigating cases involving communications sent via social media, **other than** the CPS Guidelines on prosecuting cases involving communications sent via social media? If yes, please could you provide an overview or a copy of the guidance?

The stalking input that is delivered covers the fact that social media abuse, malicious communications, threats to send personal/intimate images etc are all part of stalking behaviours and can be all part of the control enforced by the perpetrator.

How to investigate and present the evidence is touched upon as CPS will wish to see presentation of the evidence covers the fixated, obsessive, unwanted and repetitive behaviours that are intrusive and impact on the victim's well-being and the way they live their lives. We also present the homicide timeline and use the Alice Ruggles case study to assist with the learning. The use of the timeline to identify the escalating behaviours of the stalker and the subsequent presentation of this risk review within case files is again encouraged to assist CPS in their charging decisions.

The training is for all Police family from first contact (call handlers) to first responders' right through to investigators and safe guardians, but can equally be delivered to external partners.

Digital investigation training has recently been delivered to some Public Protection Unit staff.

Walsall and Sandwell Neighbourhood Policing Units are also delivering schools based PSHE products in conjunction with DSL's on healthy relationships that cover cyber bullying – PSHE lesson plans are available on line and cover;

- Identifying unhealthy relationships
- Managing unwanted attention
- Reducing inappropriate behaviours

<https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/curriculum-and-resources/resources/alice-ruggles-trust-relationship-safety-resource-0>

The College of Policing has recently released an online Digital Media Skills package that has been reviewed and a recommendation has been made that all investigators should complete it. This course is aimed at providing an awareness of digital opportunities and awareness.

In addition to the above, in order to provide any internal guidance issued we would need to manually peruse all documents held in order to ascertain the nature of any force guidance issued, which would exceed the FOI time limit.