# Domestic Homicide Review - ‘Lily Louise’ April 2024

## 1.What happened?

‘Lily Louise’ was a mother of 3 grown children having been married before she met ‘Richard’. They were both accessing GP support for physical and mental health issues.

‘Richard’ has previous convictions for offences against a former partner (outside Calderdale) including acts of strangulation.

There were several reports of violence from ‘Richard’ towards ‘Lily Louise’, including an assault on her adult daughter. ‘Lily Louise’ eventually felt able to report the abuse in September 2020, ‘Richard’ was charged and remanded in custody. Evidence suggests that ‘Richard’ found ways to contact ‘Lily Louise’ from prison. ‘Lily Louise’ retracted her statement, ‘Richard’ was released and returned to the homes he shared with ‘Lily Louise’ without any discussions with her. The abuse continued through 2021 at the same time the couple were trying to arrange a registry marriage with some sense of urgency which took place in October 2021 and ‘Lily Louise’ was murdered on the same day by ‘Richard’ who was subsequently convicted.

## 2.Findings from the review

The MARAC did not seek to obtain details of previous domestic abuse offending by ‘Richard’ to inform the risk management plan and when ‘Lily Louise’ retracted her police statement and he was released from remand MARAC did not review the risk or safety plan.

The possibility that ‘Richard’ had found a way to put pressure on ‘Lily Louise’ whilst still in custody was not explored at the time and [Clare’s Law](https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/ClaresLaw) disclosures were offered but not made to her.

Third party reports to police were not investigated fully and the bodycam evidence showing ‘Lily Louise’ being terrified was not effectively used.

Their GP was aware of escalating mental health issues but due to a clerical error was not aware of the domestic abuse and this was not explored. Even so national guidance would have prohibited ‘Richard’s’ record being flagged and they were not linked as being a couple.

Due to COVID restrictions many consultations took place via telephone.

## 3.Good practice

Despite the restrictions of COVID direct engagement by professionals with ‘Lily Louise’ was not adversely affected.

Efforts were made to pursue an evidence-based prosecution.

## 4. Summary of Recommendations

1. West Yorkshire Police to ensure the importance of interpretation of body language and the application of professional judgement inform risk assessments.

2. The Community Safety Partnership should conduct an audit of MARAC practice and review the processes for sharing historical information and where risk is increased, specifically through victim retraction statements and perpetrators being released from custody.

3. Agencies should ensure practitioners assess the risk of intimidation, including via third parties and are familiar with options available and liaise with the prison service accordingly.

4. Multi-agency training should include the risk of coercion via third parties.

5. The Home office should be made aware that current Royal College of General Practitioners guidance creates an issue of lack of flagging of perpetrator records.

6. The Community Safety Partnership should request that the Home Office should ensure that the development of the new MAPPS system interfaces effectively with the MARAC systems.

## 5.Multi-agency Learning

Multi-agency training is available on Coercive and Controlling Behaviour which includes via third parties.

**The Unwanted Prisoner Contact process has been promoted, here is a link to more information** [**Unwanted Prisoner Contact**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Funwanted-prisoner-contact.form.service.justice.gov.uk%2F&data=05%7C02%7Csally.fletcher%40calderdale.gov.uk%7Cab160310395241ae12cd08ddcb9f4560%7C07162ea21b0e498fbb555b41fd4dce4f%7C1%7C0%7C638890607105083546%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=D6z8jN98fs0GI0rFzqaRV8zE7gK5r9sI7bNqucSjx%2FM%3D&reserved=0)

MARAC processes are under review and workshops to support chairs and representatives and an audit of practice will be completed.

**ADDITIONAL LEARNING**

‘Lily Louise’ added ‘Richard’ to her tenancy giving him a further way to control her. This also had a significant impact after he murdered Lily Louise as he was able to exert his control over Lily Louise’s

family being able to access her home/personal belongings.

## 6.Resources

[Calderdale Council: Domestic Abuse](https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/residents/health-and-social-care/joint-strategic-needs-assessment/inequalities/domestic-abuse#item-10694-2264)

[Safeguarding advice for professionals working with Domestic Abuse](https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/residents/community-and-living/domestic-violence-and-abuse/safeguarding-professionals)

[Safeguard Guide Professional Curiosity and Challenge](https://safeguarding.calderdale.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Safeguard-Guide-No-9-Professional-Curiosty-and-Challenge.pdf)

[West Yorkshire Police](https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/advice/unwanted-prisoner-contact-service) – Unwanted Prisoner Contact Process and video