



December 2016

**Only 527 men (representing just 6% of all applications to date,) have made an approach to Police Authorities across England, Wales and Scotland under The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, also known as “Clare’s Law.”**

Following a Freedom of Information request to forty three Police Authorities by domestic abuse survivor, Ian McNicholl, the ManKind Initiative charity which supports male victims of domestic abuse has revealed that since the introduction of the Scheme, only 527 men have made a request for disclosure.

The aim of the Scheme is to provide anyone with a formal mechanism to make enquiries about their partner if they are worried that they may have been abusive in the past.

If Police checks show that their partner has a record of abusive behavior, or there is other information to indicate that someone is at risk from their partner, the Police will consider sharing this information.

The Home Office reports that male victims (39%)<sup>1</sup> are more than three times as likely as women (12%) to not tell anyone about partner abuse. Only 10% of male victims will tell the police as a comparison to 27% of women.

In addition, the charity politely requests that the Police and Crime Commissioner of each Police Authority ensure that the Scheme is referred to as “*The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme*” and not “*Clare’s Law*.” This is to make sure that both Females and Males are equally aware. This pivotal change in terminology will encourage friends, family and work colleagues to make a request on behalf of the men at risk of domestic abuse and will help them to look out for them and offer a helping hand.

Since the introduction of the Scheme, 7761 females have made a request for disclosure.

**Ian McNicholl<sup>2</sup>, domestic abuse survivor and honorary patron of the ManKind Initiative, said:** “Had this legislation been available to me, why would I have taken advantage of *Clare’s Law*? It is similar to as asking retirees “*Why have you not been on a Club 18-30 Holiday?*” The Title of this legislation is not gender inclusive and it is now evident that the terminology is creating barriers. This life changing legislation is available to both men and women right across England, Wales and Scotland and men must be encouraged to come forward and seek help from the Police. Don’t be like me, please make the request to the police. Alternatively, friends, family members and work colleagues must be made aware that they can also make the request on a behalf of a male they are concerned about.

**Mark Brooks, chairman of the ManKind Initiative, said:** “It is clear the domestic violence disclosure scheme is not being used enough and taken advantage of by men and we believe it is because not enough men or professional think it also applies to them as well. In the future we hope that in promoting this invaluable scheme it encourages more men to use it and of course more women too.”

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors**

1. ONS BCS Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences 2014/15 <http://bit.ly/1p8CGI0> Table 4.28 on Appendix Table: <http://bit.ly/1M1diC5>
2. **Ian McNicholl** is a domestic abuse survivor. His partner was sentenced to seven years in prison for “*Causing Grievous Bodily Harm with Intent*” in 2009. Since that time, Ian has campaigned across the UK to ensure the voices of male victims are heard and that the scope of service provision is enhanced.
3. **About the ManKind Initiative**  
The ManKind Initiative ([www.mankind.org.uk](http://www.mankind.org.uk)), is based in Taunton, Somerset, and is a national charity which runs a help-line, information and referral service for male victims of domestic abuse and domestic violence. The help-line number is **01823 334244** and is available from 10am-4pm during weekdays. The help-line receives approximately 1,600 calls from male victims (or from people on behalf of victims – often mothers’ sisters’ and daughters’) during the course of each year. 80% of callers to our helpline have never told anyone about their abuse.
4. **Media**  
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