

Commenting on the [Official National Statistics on Domestic Abuse and Stalking \(2019/20\)](#), released today by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, Dr Marsha Scott (Chief Executive of Scottish Women's Aid) said:

"Implementing Scotland's new world-leading domestic abuse law has been a huge undertaking for every cog in Scotland's justice system. The Crown Office have been an enthusiastic and insightful partner in transforming Scotland's response to domestic abuse generally and coercive control specifically, and today's figures are welcome evidence of that.

"Over 1000 prosecutions in the first year of implementation is impressive, particularly when compared to other jurisdictions with similar legislation. We especially welcome the fact that court proceedings were commenced in 96% of the charges reported under the new Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act.

"We are encouraged by early use of the innovative child aggravator, however we would like to work with Police Scotland and our colleagues in the Crown Office to gather further information on how children are faring under this new law.

"There are undoubtedly still lessons to be learned in how the justice system responds to survivors of domestic abuse. We are particularly wary that the current backlog in courts due to the COVID-19 pandemic is threatening to undo many years of progress on access to justice for those who have experienced domestic abuse and we will continue to work with colleagues from across the justice system to make the necessary improvements in this regard."

Best practice reporting on domestic abuse should refer to sources of help and support. Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline is available 24/7 on 0800 027 1234 or via email and web chat at www.sdafmh.org.uk. The service is free and confidential.

For free, survivor-sensitive images to use with any story on domestic abuse, [see here](#).