



Operation AWAKE

Terms of Reference

September 2024

- **Operation AWAKE is a Wiltshire initiative to enhance awareness and encourage reporting of misogynistic abuse, sexual harassment and threats of sexual violence targeted at 'women in public life'**
- For the purposes of this operation 'women in public life' relates to women who work or volunteer in public service and whose personal details are published or widely known in the public domain. Such roles would include local councillors, campaigners for public causes and charities, etc., to whom the public could have direct access – either face to face on a one-to-one basis, via the internet or by way of telecommunications.
- Operation AWAKE is relevant to all persons in public life, regardless of gender, however the focus of the operation is centred on women. It is acknowledged that whilst men in the same position are targeted for abuse, it is a fact that women are disproportionately targeted for threats of sexual violence, abuse and hatred based on their gender. Offenders are usually male and aware that such abuse causes significant fear and distress to women.
- The operation is not designed to apply to individuals or groups who provide narratives, make comments or campaign for personal/commercial gain.
- The operation does not provide additional or bespoke reporting and recording methods, investigative processes, resources, or criminal justice procedures outside of the normal routes already set by statute or existing police policy - be that local, regional, or national. It does, however, ensure that incidents and offences can be analysed to identify serial perpetrators or inform patrol strategies, and will support publicity campaigns and engagement to encourage reporting.
- Operation Awake will be reviewed annually. Wiltshire Police may need to terminate the operation at any time with no notice to partners due to a significant and pressing operational need but will only take such a step if it is necessary.
- Operation awake does not cover any incidents or threats any subject may experience due to personal circumstances, any incidents must be related to the role they have in the community.

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