

Public Accountability Meeting

Stalking

23rd February 2021



Stalking Statistics

Stalking is nationally a widespread issue that presents significant challenges for policing and below are some key statistics:

- Nationally, 4.5% of women and 2.5% men reported experiencing stalking in 2019. This equates to 1.5 Million women and 820,000 men. Overall 2.3 million people experience stalking in a calendar year in the UK (CSEW,2019)
- Victims can be stalked for years with the average case lasting 15 months.
- Many victims suffer up to 100 incidents before talking to the police.
- Violence is estimated to occur in 30% of stalking cases and 5% of stalkers physically attack third parties.
- Stalking is considered a high risk factor in domestic homicides with 75% of victims having reported being stalked or harassed prior to their murder.
- 91% of persons following reports of experiencing stalking developed mental health problems.
- 78% of persons following reports of experiencing stalking reported symptoms consistent with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).
- Research has revealed a large percentage of stalking perpetrators have underlying Mental Health Issues.



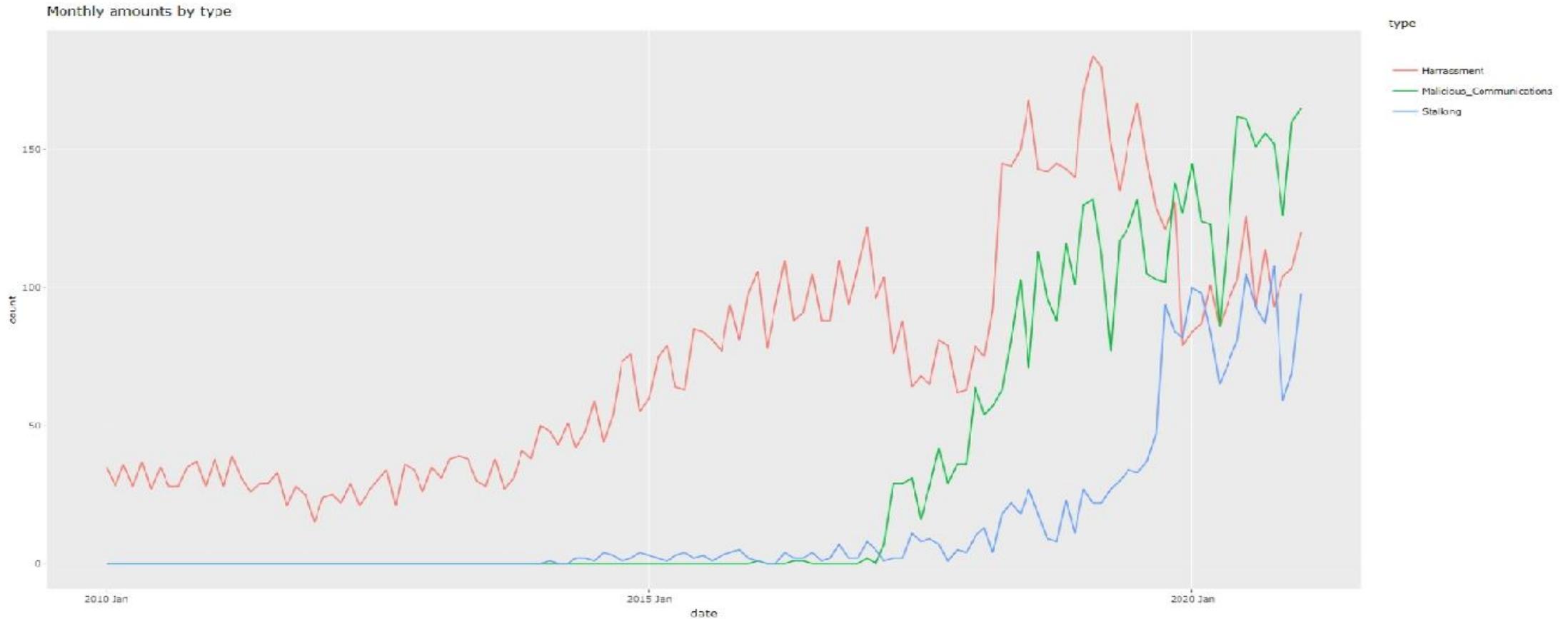
NYP Stalking Investigation

Case A – Subject A was convicted of Stalking after an investigation by North Yorkshire Police. He submitted a guilty to Stalking and was sentenced early 2021 to 2 years and 6 months imprisonment.

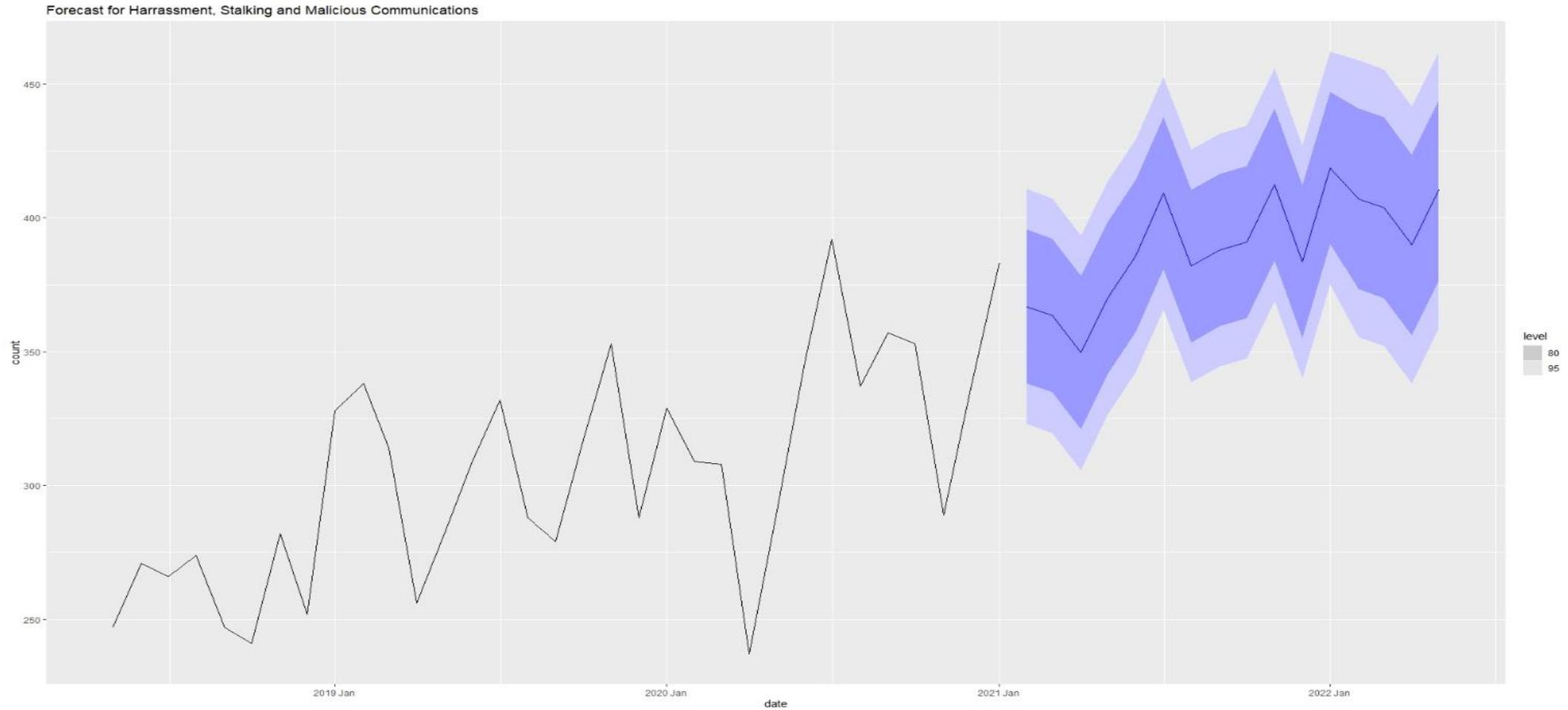
He subjected the victim to a lengthy and terrifying ordeal over a period of 18 months in which she felt like a prisoner in her own home. The victim was followed as she went about her daily life. During a routine garage check, the victim discovered the vehicle had been fitted with a tracking device. Subject A is now subject of a lifetime restraining order to protect the victim.



Current and Historic Demand



Demand Forecast



Summary of the Coast Pilot

- Commenced in May 2020.
- High Risk perpetrators are dealt with robustly
- High Risk victims are provided the right support.
- Multi Agency



Challenges for Investigations

- Early identification of Stalking offences
- Digital Evidence
- Voluntary Attendance Interviews
- Powers and procedure
- Bail Management



CPS NPCC Stalking and Harassment Joint Protocol



**Protocol on the appropriate
handling of stalking
or harassment
offences between the National Police
Chiefs' Council and the Crown
Prosecution Service**



Stalking Protection Orders

- Civil Order, the breach of which is a separate criminal offence punishable by up to five years' custody.
- Provide not only the potential to have restrictive prohibitions (e.g. contact prohibitions, address exclusions, curfews), but also positive requirements (e.g. engaging in certain programs, attending assessments) to help address potential underlying issues and prevent reoffending.
- Emphasis on application where positive requirements are desirable so as to avoid potential duplication with Restraining Orders, Non-Molestation Orders etc., which solely deal with restrictive prohibitions.
- Interim (Decided on the balance of probabilities, up to two years in length) and Full Orders (Decided on the criminal standard of beyond all reasonable doubt, can be made until further Order).
- One current interim SPO applied for by North Yorkshire Police.
- Six further potential SPOs referred for formal advice to Legal Services.



New Stalking Intervention Team

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- Detective Constable
- Two Stalking Victims officers.
- Specialist Stalking perpetrator Foundation worker
- Training and development
- Stalking clinics



Skills and Knowledge

- Stalking and Harassment inputs are delivered by Head of Safeguarding and the Stalking Support Officer This ensures training and advice is being given by practitioners to provide realism.
- Stalking and Harassment will be integral to the forthcoming DA Matters training that is to be rolled out to 75% of front line staff and Officers in 2021.
- Stalking clinics will be continually available to ensure front line staff can access specialist investigative information and safeguarding advice when dealing with investigation.
- Stalking and Harassment 'Mini Masterclass' has been delivered and has been uploaded to the Source to ensure it is accessible to all.
- SSO and SVOs have attended specialist Stalking Conference hosted by the Alice Ruggles Trust. This learning will be disseminated via the Mini Masterclass and Stalking Clinics.



Social Media Response

- ‘No Matter How Small’ campaign run in January – March 2019. Aimed at raising awareness around stalking, what types of behaviours are considered as stalking and advice on reporting. One of the posts dealing with stalker typologies reached over 21,400 people on Facebook.
- National Stalking Awareness Week focus in April 2019 based on the #StalkingStealsLives campaign. Best performing post reached over 24,200 people on Facebook.
- Press Release surrounding Stalking Protection Orders in January 2020 reached over 26,800 people on Facebook.
- Post about a successful conviction relating to the kidnap and murder of Natalie Harker in November 2020 reached over 108,400 people on Facebook, with over 1,600 reactions.
- Post about the successful conviction of Case A in January 2021 reached over 83,000 people on Facebook, with almost 600 reactions.



Support Services

- **National Stalking Helping - 0808 802 0300** advice@stalkinghelpline.org

Operated by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust. Gives practical information, support, and advice on risk, safety planning and legislation to victims of stalking, their friends, family, and professionals working with victims.

- **Paladin – 020 3866 4107** info@paladinservice.co.uk

Paladin provides support, advice and advocacy to high-risk victims of stalking. For young persons (16-25 years old), Paladin have a specialist young person's ISAC (Independent Stalking Advocate).

- **Cyber Helpline –** <https://www.thecyberhelpline.com/gethelp>

The Cyber Helpline is a free, confidential helpline for individuals who have been a victim of cybercrime.

- **IDAS – 03000 110 110** info@idas.org.uk

IDAS provide support and advice to victims of stalking where domestic abuse is or has been a feature. They also provide a Live Chat service on their website.

- **Am I Being Stalked?** <https://www.suzylamplugh.org/am-i-being-stalked-tool>

Run by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, operates as an assessment tool for professionals and victims dealing with potential stalking. It also provides details of the law relating to stalking and harassment, details of support services, as well as safety planning and advice surrounding evidence gathering and risk reduction.





Supporting Victims of Stalking to Cope & Recover

PAM February 2020



Supporting Victims of Stalking to Cope & Recover

- Supporting Victims (SVT) is the team that provides victims of crime practical & emotional telephone support & referral into specialist services
- Victims of stalking have an 'Enhanced Entitlement' to support to cope & recover under the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime
- Victims are referred to SVT automatically by North Yorkshire Police (NYP) once they confirm that a stalking crime has taken place
- SVT receive referrals for non-domestic abuse stalking crimes only, domestic abuse stalking crime victims are referred to NYP Domestic Abuse Coordinators/Officers
- Stalking victims can also self-refer to SVT or be referred by a partner agency by phone: 01609 643100 or via an online form: [Contact us \(1.0\) \(victoriaforms.com\)](https://victoriaforms.com)
 - Victims do not need to report crime to NYP to receive support via SVT
 - Anyone who considers themselves to have been a victim of crime can self-refer to SVT for support, at any time



Supporting Victims Team (SVT)

- SVT attempt to contact victims of non-domestic abuse stalking by phone to offer immediate emotional and/or practical support
- Domestic abuse stalking victims, where stalking is found to be part of a previous intimate relationship are contacted by an NYP DAC/O
- If SVT are unable to reach stalking victims by phone after 3 attempts (different times/days) a letter will be sent (where safe to do so) outlining support available & how to access it, so that victims can contact SVT directly to opt-in
- If stalking victims require in-depth, face to face support, SVT or an NYP DAC/O will refer them into our specialist commissioned services:
 - Domestic Abuse service, provided by IDAS where stalking is found to be part of a previous intimate relationship; or
 - Independent Victim Advisor (IVA) service, provided by Victim Support where stalking is non-domestic

Domestic Abuse & Independent Victim Adviser (IVA) Services



- Our specialist DA & IVA services:
 - support victims of stalking to cope with the immediate impact of crime & recover from the harm experienced
 - provide personalised, dedicated face to face support from the point of crime, through the criminal justice process and beyond
 - assess & document need across 9 categories, using a 1-10 scale, re-assessing at key points in service delivery & on service exit to monitor progress
 - undertake safety risk assessments using the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence (DASH) Risk Checklist
 - develop a bespoke cope and recovery plan in partnership with each victim to address their identified needs and risks
 - work through each victims cope & recovery plan together
 - work closely with Action Against Stalking and Paladin National Stalking Advocacy Service to continuously improve provision