

You may be interested in some statistics about the work of the Victim Information and Advice service. The information that follows provides details of:-

- numbers of cases and service users
- types of case referrals
- performance in relation to communicating bail information

### **CASES AND SERVICE USERS**

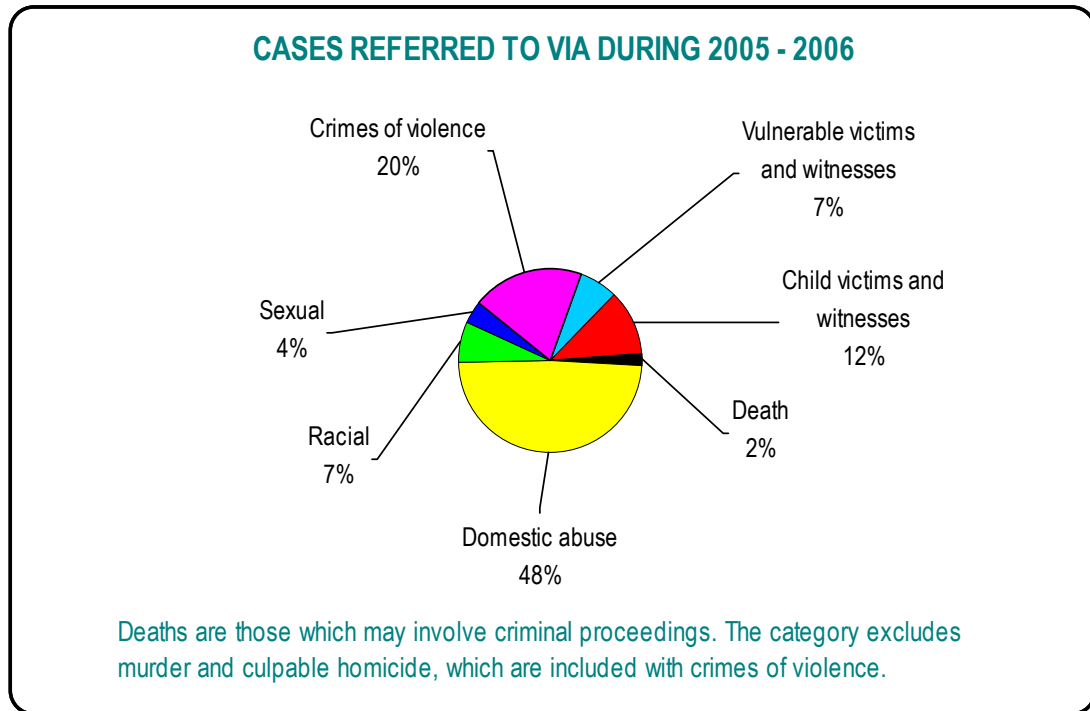
The Victim Information and Advice (VIA) service was launched in 2002, after an earlier service (the Victim Liaison Office) was piloted in Aberdeen and Hamilton in 2000-01.

VIA services were established throughout Scotland between 2002 and December 2004. Since the launch, the numbers of cases handled and people receiving the service have both more than tripled.

| <b>YEAR</b> | <b>CASES</b> | <b>SERVICE USERS</b> |
|-------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 2002-03     | 6,581        | 10,356               |
| 2003-04     | 11,632       | 18,447               |
| 2004-05     | 18,334       | 27,613               |
| 2005-06     | 23,698       | 35,201               |

## CASE REFERRALS

The chart below shows the breakdown of VIA cases in 2005-06, reflecting VIA Referral Categories – (Please see our website for more information - <http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/Publications/2007/03/VIAStats>)



Domestic abuse cases make up nearly 50% of the VIA caseload, with crimes of violence (excluding domestic abuse) accounting for another 19%.

From 1 November 2006, the VIA remit was extended to cover religiously aggravated crime. First figures on this type of case will be available when the 2006-07 statistics are completed.

## **COMMUNICATING BAIL INFORMATION**

It is a VIA target to communicate court bail decisions within 24 hours to 90% of victims in cases where the accused has appeared from custody.

The table below shows how VIA did against this target in 2005-06.

|                     | <b>Number of cases</b> | <b>Target met</b> | <b>% of cases target met</b> |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Standard conditions | 1,916                  | 1,909             | 99                           |
| Special conditions  | 5,940                  | 5,920             | 99                           |

Standard bail conditions are that the accused should:-

- attend their trial or earlier court appearance
- not commit an offence while on bail
- not interfere with witnesses
- not obstruct the course of justice (for example, by disappearing)

Special bail conditions place additional requirements on the accused – for example, limiting where they can live, or preventing them going near a person, their family or home.