

Councillor Michael Hill OBE,
Chair of Kent Community Safety Partnership
Kent County Council
Room G.60
Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
ME14 1XQ

23 April 2014

Dear Councillor Hill,

Thank you for submitting the revised Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report from Kent Community Safety Partnership (Case B/2012) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. I apologise for the delay in getting back to you.

The QA Panel would like to thank you for conducting this review and providing them with the final report. In terms of the assessment of DHR reports the QA Panel judges them as either adequate or inadequate. It is clear that a lot of effort has gone into revising this report, and I am pleased to tell you that it has been judged as adequate by the QA Panel.

The revised documents provide clarification and amendments on most of the points we raised in our previous response to you.

The QA Panel felt that there were three areas where the report could benefit from further amendment which you may wish to consider before you publish:

- The QA Panel's previous letter to you referenced the DHR Chair being asked not to speak to friends of the victims, and we asked for further information on any challenge to this. The Panel remains of the view that clearer text should be included on whether there was any further challenge on this point by the Chair, especially as it was established during the review that a friend was present at an incident that previously occurred between the couple;
- Clarification on whether the requests for IMRs were pursued by the DHR Chair, and whether the reasoning behind the decision not to provide them was challenged by the DHR Chair; and,

- The QA Panel also feel that paragraph 3.4 of the Executive Summary should be revisited in terms of the reference to the victim “...devising a safety plan for herself...”, which could be interpreted as suggesting the onus is on victims to safety plan. Revisiting this line should help to demonstrate a greater understanding about what is involved in safety planning in domestic violence and abuse cases.

We do not need to see another version of the report, but I would ask you to consider the recommended changes above, and include this letter as an appendix to the report when published.

Yours sincerely,

Christian Papaleontiou, Acting Chair of the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel
Head of the Interpersonal Violence Team, Safeguarding and Vulnerable People Unit