



Public Protection Unit 2
Marsham Street
London
SW1 4DF

T: 020 7035 4848
www.gov.uk/homeoffice

Shafick Peerbux
Head of Community Safety
Public Protection Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
Maidstone
ME14 1XX

18 March 2020

Dear Shafick

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Bridget) for Kent CSP to the Home Office. The report was assessed by the Quality Assurance Panel (QA) on 22 January 2020.

The QA Panel welcomed the way in which the report is sensitively written and included contribution from family and friends. The Panel particularly commended the addition of the Private Healthcare Provider, out of hours doctor service, and the victim's phone call record in the review. This resulted in a proportionate and transparent report.

The QA Panel felt that there are some aspects of the report which may benefit from further revision but the Home Office is content that, on completion of these changes, the DHR may be published.

Areas of final development include:

- The report paints a picture of the perpetrator as a vulnerable older man who is suffering with mental health issues while acting as sole carer for the victim. The report would benefit from greater exploration of the impact this had on the perpetrator. In particular, providing more challenge around the lack of support offered to the perpetrator as the main carer, the services he should have had access to and any barriers he may have experienced in accessing this support.
- It would profit the report to clarify what support the victim was receiving and whether she was on a palliative care pathway or end of life pathway. Including confirmation of whether a 'living will' was offered by the Office of Public Guardian.
- The Panel felt that the report missed opportunities to reference potential coercive control by probing family assumptions. Paragraph 4.1.1 states that the couple had a 'very traditional marriage'. It would be useful to explore how coercive control is a hidden form of abuse not often witnessed by family and friends. In light of this, it



would be helpful to have clarification in the report of what questions were put to friends about the couple.

- The Panel felt the report could be enhanced by including insight from representatives of AGE UK and Macmillan.

Once completed the Home Office would be grateful if you could provide us with a digital copy of the revised final version of the report with all finalised attachments and appendices and the weblink to the site where the report will be published.

Please send the digital copy and weblink to DHREnquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk. This is for our own records for future analysis to go towards highlighting best practice and to inform public policy.

The Home Office believe it is helpful to routinely sight Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) on DHRs in their local area. I am therefore copying this letter to your local PCC for information.

On behalf of the QA Panel, I would like to thank you, the report chair and author, and other colleagues, for the considerable work that you have put into this review.

Yours sincerely

Linda Robinson

Joint Chair of the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel