

Cllr Paul Webb,
Kent County Council
Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
ME14 1XQ

14th May 2026

Dear Paul,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Melissa) for Kent Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Board. The report was considered at the QA Board meeting on 25th March 2026. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

Please find the QA Board's feedback in the form below. On completion of the changes suggested the DHR may be published.

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 ensure this letter and the feedback form is published alongside the report.

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 DHR report including the executive summary and action plan should be converted to a PDF document and be smaller than 20 MB in size; this final Home Office QA Board letter and feedback form should be attached to the end of the report as an annex; and the DHR Action Plan should be added to the report as an annex. This should include all implementation updates and note that the action plan is a live document and subject to change as outcomes are delivered.

Please also send a digital copy to the Domestic Abuse Commissioner at DHR@domesticabusecommissioner.independent.gov.uk

On behalf of the QA Board, 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,

Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Board

DHR QA Board Feedback for the Community Safety Partnership

TITLE OF DHR	Melissa
COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP	Kent
DATE REVIEWED BY QA BOARD	25 th March 2026
DECISION	Publish with amendments
GOOD PRACTICE COMMENDED	• The inclusion of a tribute to Melissa by the CSP, in the absence of family and friends, was a thoughtful and effective way of ensuring that Melissa was recognised and remembered. • The acknowledgement and expression of condolences following the Chair's awareness that Melissa's mother later died by suicide is also to be commended. • The engagement of specialist suicide prevention expertise to inform the review strengthens its quality. • The consistent use of Melissa's voice throughout the report helps the reader understand events through her perspective.
FEEDBACK FOR FUTURE DHRs	This is an excellent review but on occasion uses terms like 'entrapment in abuse' or 'exhibit signs of domestic abuse' which does not make clear who is doing what to who – as such it does not hold the abuser accountable. Better phrases would be 'trapped by the abuser' and 'signs indicating that someone is subjecting them to abuse'. Please could this be considered in future reports.

	DHR SECTION	DHR QA BOARD FEEDBACK (improvements required before publication)
1	Title Page	No amendments required.
2	Contents Page	No amendments required.
3	Pen Portrait	No amendments required.
4	Condolences	No amendments required.

5	Confidentiality and Anonymity	No amendments required.
6	Terms of Reference	No amendments required.
7	Equality and Diversity	No amendments required.
8	Background Information	No amendments required.
9	Combined Chronology	No amendments required.
10	Overview	No amendments required.
11	Analysis	No amendments required.
12	Conclusions	No amendments required.
13	Lessons learnt and recommendations	The analysis demonstrates clear links between findings, conclusions and lessons learned. However, given the identified lack of professional curiosity around finances and indicators of economic abuse, it would be helpful to consider whether this should also be explicitly captured as a learning point within the review.
14	Timescales	No amendments required.
15	Involvement of family / friends / community	No amendments required.
16	DHR contributors	No amendments required.
17	DHR Panel	No amendments required.
18	DHR Author	No amendments required.
19	Parallel Reviews	No amendments required.

20	Dissemination	• Please add the Domestic Abuse Commissioner to the dissemination list. • There has been good consideration of Melissa's family, despite her brother choosing not to engage with the process. Should this change, it would be appropriate for the Chair to check key dates to avoid publication and to consider whether additional support for family members will be required.
21	Action Plan	The use of a RAG rating system is helpful. Please clarify where accountability for implementation of the actions sits.
22	Has there been a request to withhold publication? <i>If Yes, include the reason for the request. Is it proportionate and appropriate?</i>	No request to withhold publication.
23	Any other comments	