

Councillor Michael Hill OBE,
Kent County Council
Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
ME14 1XQ

8 December 2014

Dear Councillor Hill,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) overview report for Kent to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The review was considered at the November Panel meeting.

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

The QA Panel would like to commend you on the continuation of this review in light of the criminal justice outcome in this case. The QA Panel also noted the bespoke terms of reference for this review, and the evidence of early learning from this report. They felt it appeared open and honest, and demonstrated a clear understanding of risk in the context of domestic violence and abuse.

There were some issues that the QA Panel felt might benefit from more detail and/ or consideration which you may wish to consider before you publish the final report:

- Revisit the wording in paragraph 4.1.2 for factual accuracy, as juries do not make findings of whether or not there was a homicide, but deliver a verdict of guilty or not guilty;
- The QA Panel felt that it would be helpful if you considered different ways of accessing family or friends for contributions to this report. Also clarify why there is no input from friends (or wider networks);

- Provide further text to clarify the reason housing services were approached during this review and what if any relevant information was recorded by them; and ,
- Review the findings and consider if there were appropriate actions for probation indicated in this case and add actions where appropriate.

The Panel does not need to see another version of the report, but we would ask you to include our letter when you publish the report.

I would like to thank you once again for submitting this thorough report for consideration by the Home Office Domestic Homicide Review Quality Assurance Panel.

Yours sincerely,

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