

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

17 February 2022

Dear Councillor Hill,

Thank you for resubmitting the Domestic Homicide Review (Simran) for Kent Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office. The report was reassessed in February 2022.

The QA Panel felt the DHR is clear, concise, accessible and shows a very good understanding of domestic abuse, and particularly of the issues of shame and honour, and how these might have impacted Simran and the services that interacted with her and her family. There is a good understanding of intersectionality in this report, and how this impacted on Simran and Ranjit's experiences and interactions with agencies. This was something which was reflected throughout the report, rather than just referenced at the beginning. The panel took part in a briefing regarding issues within the Sikh community to enhance their understanding of Simran and Ranjit's experiences which is commended as good practice, as is the pseudonyms used being selected with advice from a member of the Sikh community in lieu of family input.

The report makes good use of the findings of previous DHRs and research, which enhances the understanding of this case and the review features a good equality and diversity section. There is a good exploration and analysis of the economic abuse Ranjit perpetrated at 15.1.4-15.1.6, This recognises his pressuring Simran to give him money, and also considers that a reason Simran may have lost hope with managing the finances whilst Ranjit was in custody could have been due to him running up debts.

The thorough analysis and findings leading to consideration of how agencies could have viewed the deceased's daughter as a victim rather than a witness, particularly in the context of the barriers experienced by the deceased to access support, is exemplar and supports innovative thinking. There are positive related actions such as harmful practices training, commissioned services to strengthen engagement from diverse cultures, and cultural competence training for GPs. Generally, the report is probing of agencies and did well in addressing the key failures of agencies. The report also importantly highlights some of the good practice of agencies, such as a specialist

officers attempting to contact the victim. The report also does well in explaining the referral pathways for survivors of domestic abuse and how these could be improved.

The Home Office noted that the issues raised in the previous feedback letter following the first submission have now been addressed.

The view of the Home Office is that the DHR may now be published.

We would be grateful if you could provide us with a finalised digital copy of the report with attachments and the weblink to the site where the report will be published. Please ensure this letter 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.

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

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,

Lynne Abrams

Chair of the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel