

Cllr Clair Bell,
Kent County Council
Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
ME14 1XQ

25th March 2025

Dear Cllr Clair Bell,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Rita) for Kent Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting in February 2025. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel commented that the report is sensitive and includes contributions from the family that help to see events through the eyes of the victim, being mindful of her past lived traumas. The victim's very frequent interactions with health, social care and criminal justice services are clearly evidenced and present the organisations as generally understanding the complex and chronic needs of the victim.

There is evidence of very good engagement with the victim's family who were clearly feeling very dissatisfied with the lack of any legal accountability for their loved one's death.

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 for final development:

- The dissemination list includes "*Additional agencies and professionals identified who would benefit from having the learning shared with them.*" But these are not specified. The victim had been subject to a MARAC within a London borough and the report should be made available to the CSP for the relevant area.
- Paragraph 16.4.47 states "*Rita in the encounters with the police was as a perpetrator, as well as a victim.*" The use of the word "perpetrator" to describe the victim suggests she was also the perpetrator of domestic abuse and the alternative words "suspect" and "offender" might be considered.

- The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme is referred to as “*Claire’s Law*” in paragraph 16.4.52. The scheme is named after the domestic homicide victim Clare Wood and every effort should be made to spell her name correctly as “Clare’s Law”.
- Paragraph 16.4.56 cites a review of probation services but states this was a report in 1923, but this must have been in 2023.
- Paragraph 18.1 refers to “*Recommendations numbered 8 to 19 for these organisations to manage internally*” but there are only 18 recommendations listed in the report.
- The Summary Chronology within the Executive Summary extends over 99 paragraphs, whereas within the original overview report, the full Chronology is only 86 paragraphs in length. The version within the executive summary ideally needs to be more succinct, requiring only the key facts of agency interactions.

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 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 Panel feedback letter 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 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,

Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel