



Home Office

Public Protection Unit
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

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

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

9 October 2017

Dear Councillor Hill,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review report for Kent (DHR 16) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 23 August 2017. I very much regret the delay in providing the Panel's feedback.

The QA Panel would like to thank you for conducting this review and for providing them with the final report. The Panel concluded this was a well written, comprehensive review in which meaningful family engagement had provided valuable insight and a different perspective into the case. The Panel felt the background on the Proceeds of Crime Act for the lay reader was particularly helpful.

There were, however, some aspects of the report which the Panel felt may benefit from further analysis, or be revised, which you will wish to consider:

- To help provide context, it would assist a reader if more detail was given in the review on what caused the financial difficulties that resulted in the family home having to be sold, described in paragraph 4.1.1 in the report;
- Given the victim and perpetrator were both displaying risk factors for domestic abuse, when presenting at the GP surgery which did not trigger additional probing, the Panel felt the report should consider how a whole family approach could be implemented in situations such as this;

- Similarly, the report would value more probing to establish why the Suspicious Activity Report was not investigated by the police as this may have identified financial abuse by the perpetrator;
- The report would benefit from more exploration of coercive control as a dynamic of the relationship and how financial control was exerted in this context;
- You may wish to consider whether any recommendations are appropriate in relation to the analysis around private sector care providers;
- Please review the language in the report as the Panel was concerned that some references could imply that the homicide was due to external factors, such as pressure and stress;
- The Panel noted that the chair is a retired police officer and suggested that it may be helpful to provide a little more information on the independence of the chair to assure readers that there are no conflicts of interest;
- There is no detail on how the victim was killed;
- You may wish to consider including expressions of condolences to add humanity to the report.

The Panel does not need to review another version of the report, but I would be grateful if you could include our letter as an appendix to the report. I would be grateful if you could email us at DHREnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk and provide us with the URL to the report when it is published.

The QA Panel felt it would be helpful to routinely sight Police and Crime Commissioners on DHRs in their local area. I am, accordingly, copying this letter to the PCC for information.

Yours sincerely

Hannah Buckley

Acting Chair of the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel