

Violent Crime Unit
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T 020 7035 4848
F 020 7035 4745
www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Councillor Michael Hill OBE,
Chair of Kent Community Safety Partnership
Kent County Council
Room G.60
Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
ME14 1XQ

28 October 2013

Dear Councillor Hill,

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

The QA Panel would like to thank you for conducting this review and for providing them with the final report. In terms of the assessment of DHR 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 this well written, well ordered, and readable report, which the QA Panel felt reflected a Review that was approached with openness. The review also demonstrated a clear appetite to learn lessons from this tragedy. This is illustrated by the examples of early learning such as the Primary Care Trust updating guidance to GPs, and IDVA policy on information sharing being extended to include sharing where no action on a case is required by the agency.

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

- Please consider removing paragraph 5.3 concerning the reasoning behind there being no inquest, which appears to the Panel to be speculative;
- Please include some information to clarify the area's decision not to undertake a Serious Case Review;
- Consider ways to bring out the victim's perspective/ voice in this report more strongly.

- Strongly consider including a recommendation in the report on information sharing relating to domestic violence, particularly between local authorities when victims move areas.

The QA Panel does not need to see another version of the report, but I would ask you to include this letter as an appendix to the report when it is published.

Yours sincerely,

Christian Papaleontiou, Acting Chair of the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel
Head of the Interpersonal Violence Team, Violent Crime Unit