

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

22nd May 2025

Dear Cllr Clair Bell,

Thank you for resubmitting the report (Safta) for Kent and Medway Community Safety Partnership to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was reassessed in May 2025.

The QA Panel felt the family's contribution to the review was evident throughout and noted the use of culturally sensitive pseudonyms that were agreed by the family. The report includes a good insight of the victim as a person and good analysis of the relationship with the perpetrator. There is also a good reflection of children as victims, and a touching tribute from the victim's stepdaughter. The QA Panel felt there was a good review of the protected characteristics, and clear outcomes were stated.

The QA Panel noted that most of the issues raised in the previous feedback letter have now been addressed.

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

This review would be strengthened by further consideration of the panel's feedback that the CSP may wish to consider learning for health agencies. If possible before publication it would be helpful to outline whether the hospital has any policies on domestic abuse (DA) and routine enquiry? Is there a DA service in the hospital? And if so, might there have been a way for that service to reach Safta? Or not? The panel is not suggesting that Safta might have been in hospital because of the DA but that her visits to the hospital may have been an opportunity for Safta to disclose the abuse she was suffering to professionals.

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