

Linda Gallagher  
Development Officer  
Community Safety Partnership  
Sustainable Communities Team  
South Cambridgeshire Hall  
Cambourne Business Park  
Cambourne, Cambridge  
CB23 6EA

11<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear Linda,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Richard) for South Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel commented that the review feels honest and transparent, and the contributions from the victim's parents have been used effectively to try and see events through the eyes of the victim. As a result, the victim's voice has been represented well in this review. The majority of the background information about the victim was provided by the victim's parents and work colleagues, and this has provided an understanding of him as a person and context to his life. This was important as he had had limited contact with agencies.

There are very genuine and sensitive condolences at the start of the review, acknowledging the devastating loss to the victim's parents. At 1.5.2 the author expresses gratitude for the significant contributions and assistance provided by the victim's family for the review. The report demonstrates a good understanding of domestic abuse and coercive control, which has the potential to increase learning.

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:**

- A specialist in male victims of domestic abuse could have been considered for the panel.

- There is no voluntary sector representation on the panel or a representative from the charitable sector with domestic abuse expertise as required by statutory guidance. It would be helpful to include an explanation for this.
  - The use of pseudonyms should be explained earlier on in the report.
- 1.6.1 explains that the Coronial process was suspended awaiting the outcome of the police investigation, this requires updating in the report.
- 2.4.7 '*Rationale has not been provided to the author on request and can therefore not be included*'; it would be helpful to set out who the author contacted.
  - It would be helpful if more information was provided as to the results of the coercive and controlling behaviour crime investigated by Met Police.
  - The cultural issues regarding Richard's wife and his mother-in-law are not addressed within the report. This should be considered, especially as his work colleagues disclosed issues around living arrangements and Richard and Geekita's lack of privacy.
  - The timeline is a little repetitive as it jumps back with each agency/individual's input being separate. It may flow better as a single timeline with the information from all sources relating to that period of time.
  - The actual date of death needs to be removed from the table at 1.3.3.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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

