

David V. Scott  
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29 September 2022

Dear David,

Thank you for re-submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Adult A) for Windsor & Maidenhead Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel felt the report was clearly structured, sympathetic, thoughtful and thorough featuring a real attempt to engage family members in the review with condolences offered to them in the review. The report provides a detailed chronology of events and analysis of each agency's involvement with the family and the overview report has gathered information from a wide range of sources. Good practice is recognised very clearly in the conclusion alongside areas for improvement. Lessons to be learned, nationally and locally, are clearly identified within the report and the action plan and these are supported by specific and achievable recommendations for improving practice. There is good discussion and recommendation around sexualised behaviour and recognition of this by agencies.

There are clear descriptions and understanding of domestic abuse and a good terms of reference allowing the reader to understand what constitutes as domestic abuse and controlling and coercive behaviour.

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:**

- Referring to the victim as Adult A and then deceased throughout the report makes it less personal and removes the victim from having an identity. It would be advisable to provide the victim with a pseudonym to reference throughout the report.

- Previous domestic abuse (DA) related incidents have been downplayed, it would be useful to further explore the impact of growing up within a household witnessing DA incidents and what impact this may have had for both the perpetrator and victim.
- The report mentions that the family liaison officer (FLO) was in communication with the family and was the main person communicating information with the family in regards to the DHR. Were participants only invited to be involved in the process if they had contact with FLO? This could potentially exclude other extended family members, friends and neighbours who were not in contact with the FLO and should be noted.
- The Equality and Diversity (E&D) section is still weak and could consider femicide/matricide when looking at sex. Similarly, 3.7.2 mentions that Adult A had recently been diagnosed with cancer (in 2009) but this is not mentioned again or explored as a disability. In the discussion on age at 1.11.13 it is stated that *whilst it is recognised that many cases of domestic abuse go unreported these statistics indicate that the risk of domestic abuse against women reduces with age*, which felt was a bit simplistic. There may be a range of reasons why abuse against older women is not recognised as domestic abuse. Hannah Bows' article on parricides and analysis of DHRs released by Standing Together (in 2016 and 2020) could be helpful additions.
- Footnote 29 claims the source is an academic study, but this does not appear to be the case, it is an information sheet. Further references would also be helpful for example at 5.5.2, in the E&D, to ensure claims are supported by evidence.
- The report still states multiple times that Adult B was never violent to Adult A, but then states that he broke her collarbone and hit her, so this comes across as contradictory.
- There are still numerous typos and grammar issues within the report which requires a thorough proofread.

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.

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,

**Lynne Abrams**

Chair of the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel