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Amanda Gregory
Regulatory and Community Safety Services Manager/CSP Chair
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9 February 2018

Dear Ms Gregory,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report for the Isle of Wight (Mr Cooper) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 24 January 2018.

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 good review which has been enhanced by the contribution of the family and from the use of witness statements from the criminal trial.

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:

- You may wish to review how alcohol dependency is conveyed in the report. The Panel felt the narrative could more clearly articulate that, in domestic abuse cases, alcohol dependency may be a coping mechanism rather than a lifestyle choice;
- The Panel felt that overall the report may be regarded as physical violence focused and suggested that, to counter this, it may be helpful to consider including narrative that discusses domestic abuse in its broader terms;
- Paragraph 2.7.69 considers separation as a safeguarding measure but does not discuss it as a risk factor;
- You may wish to review some of the phraseology which the Panel felt could be interpreted as judgmental (paragraphs 2.7.68 and 2.6.14);

- You may wish to consider the relevance of paragraph 3.12.5 given that, under the revised statutory guidance, there is no longer a requirement for DHR reviews to consider preventability and predictability;
- The Panel noted there were no condolences expressed in the report which is common practice in DHRs;
- Please check paragraph numbers as they become misaligned between pages 56 and 57;
- It may be helpful to make the overview report shorter and more concise;
- The action plan will need to be updated before publication.

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

Christian Papaleontiou
Chair of the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel