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Alison Parrott
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6 December 2017

Dear Ms Parrott,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report for Cornwall (DHR 5) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 25 October 2017. I very much regret the delay in providing the Panel's feedback.

The QA Panel would like to thank you for conducting this review and for providing them with the final report. The Panel noted this was a combined DHR and Mental Health Homicide Review which they felt had broadened the scope of the review and resulted in improved organisational engagement and learning. The Panel also commended the commission of an independent forensic psychiatric review which helped inform the DHR review.

The Panel acknowledged the family's important contribution to the review and suggested that their tribute to the victim, which appears in the foreword of the overview report, should also be included in the executive summary. The Panel was grateful for the family's helpful observations in relation to the DHR process, most of which they concluded was already set out in the statutory guidance. The Home Office keeps the statutory guidance under continuous review and has undertaken to consider whether any additional clarification may be required when the guidance is next updated.

There were some aspects of the report which the Panel felt may benefit from further analysis, or be revised, which you will wish to consider:

- The Panel felt that references to the Pemberton DHR as regards hindsight may need to be rephrased as it could be interpreted to mean that the use of hindsight

was inappropriate in reviews. The Panel's view was that used appropriately, hindsight could be a useful tool for reviews;

- It would be helpful if the report could provide additional detail to explain the period of time taken between the homicide incident and the report being submitted to the Home Office;

- There is insufficient consideration of equality and diversity set out in the diversity section of the report (1.8);

- The review could have explored further the impact that the victim and perpetrator's professions had on them accessing health services and support and whether recommendations were required to address the findings;

- The Panel queried why preventability on page 73 of the report is considered in the context of "immediate threat";

- The Panel felt the report is lengthy and may benefit from being made more concise. They suggested this could be achieved by reducing the detailed chronology at the end of the report;

- The Panel noted there was no voluntary sector representative on the review panel. Additionally, the Panel agreed with the family's observation that the review panel may have benefited from an experienced, professionally qualified forensic psychiatrist.

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

Hannah Buckley
Acting Chair of the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel