

Mr C Papaleontiou
Chair of the Home Office DHR QA Panel
Public Protection Unit
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SENT VIA SECURE EMAIL

September 2016

Dear Mr Papaleontiou

Domestic Homicide Review in Tamworth in respect of “Marie”

Thank you for your letter of 5 July 2016 outlining the feedback from the Quality Assurance Panel re the above. We are pleased that you considered it to be an open and honest review that had done its best to work with the limited information available.

With regard to the specific comments you raise in your letter, our response is as follows and will be published together with your letter.

- The Review Panel explored the impact of gambling in section 6 but did not dwell on it as there was no evidence in this case that it led the perpetrator to be violent, abusive or controlling of his wife. The evidence suggested that she controlled all the savings accounts. Equally, as the perpetrator declined to comment, there was no evidence that his gambling led to her death.
- There was no information in the report about the victim's daughter (except the information she gave to the author and a Review Panel member). The Review Panel, however, felt that it was important to include some information about the son as he was violent towards his mother and she clearly had worries about him. We have now removed some of this information but inevitably it has diminished the quality of the contextual information, thus making it less clear what pressures the family faced at that time. As clearly stated in the terms of reference, the information accessed from Probation and Children's Social Care was not about the son per se but about assessments and observations about his mother and the perpetrator. These were included to provide an understanding of the victim and perpetrator's relationship.
- The victim did not disclose to the GP that her son was violent towards her and therefore it would not be reasonable to expect the GP to have a role in relation to this in these circumstances.
- The victim never disclosed abuse from the perpetrator. The victim's best friend and the victim's daughter who lived with them throughout their relationship (until a

few months before the murder) were both adamant that the perpetrator was never abusive, violent or controlling. The victim, however, had disclosed to family, friends and professionals that she had suffered abuse from her father, previous partners and her son. The panel felt it was important to include this information to show that she did not appear to face these barriers to reporting.

- As with all domestic homicide reviews, Tamworth Community Safety Partnership will monitor the completion and outcome of the recommendations.
- We are grateful that you pointed out that the report inadvertently referred to the son's first name on one occasion. This has now been removed.
- The perpetrator was sent a letter inviting him to contribute towards the review. His offender manager was concerned that any involvement in the DHR process could have a detrimental effect on his mental health. The Review Panel accepted the offender manager's professional judgement and did not pursue the matter. Equally, as the perpetrator had refused to disclose any information to police, it was felt it was unlikely that he would agree to a meeting. The panel felt it was inappropriate to include detailed information regarding the perpetrator's state of mind at the time in the review.
- In accordance with the statutory guidance on Domestic Homicide Reviews, the Review Panel did not review the forensic evidence in the case (DHRs are not inquiries into how the victim died or into who is culpable; that is a matter for coroners and criminal courts, respectively, to determine as appropriate).
- The Independent Author has added some detail into the Executive Summary concerning Children's Social Care, but inevitably this will need to include further information about the victim's son in order to put it into context.
- Finally, the Police and Crime Commissioner is already cited within the report as a recipient of this review.

Yours faithfully,



Chair of Community Safety Partnership