

Mr Jack Hegarty  
Chair, South Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership  
C/o Martin Lakeman  
Strategic Co-ordinator  
Worcestershire Forums Against Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence  
ACS - E2 Pavilion  
County Hall  
Spetchley Road  
Worcester WR5 2NP

26 July 2013

Dear Mr Hegarty,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report from South Worcestershire to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The review was considered at the QA Panel meeting in July.

The QA Panel would like to thank you for conducting this review and for providing them with the final overview report, executive summary and Action Plan. In terms of the assessment of reports, the QA Panel judges them as either adequate or inadequate. It is clear that a lot of effort has gone into producing this report, and I am pleased to tell you that it has been judged as adequate by the QA Panel.

There were some issues that the Panel felt might benefit from more detail and/or analysis, and which you may wish to consider before you publish the final report:

- revisit the coding system used within the report as it was difficult to follow;
- revisit the text used in the report to describe the victim's actions, particularly where some of the language used may be interpreted to be "victim-blaming" (such as on page 46) which could appear judgmental in its tone;
- include further consideration on whether lessons can be learned from how the Day Centre succeeded at engaging with this victim when other agencies did not; and,
- anonymise the report including removing the initial's of the victim to reduce the risk of identification and to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, in accordance with paragraph 9.2 of the Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews.

The QA Panel noted the relevant national issue arising from the Probation Service decision to return an offender ("P2") to the victim's home in this report. The Home Office will raise this as a national training issue with the National Offender Management Service.

The QA Panel does not need to see another version of the report, but I would ask you to include this letter as an appendix to the report when it is published.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Cooper, Chair of the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel  
Head of the Violent Crime Unit