

Ms Suzanne Harris
Public Health B3,
Somerset County Council,
County Hall,
Taunton,
TA1 4DY

18 February 2015

Dear Ms Branch,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) overview report for Somerset to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The review was considered at the December Panel meeting.

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

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

- The QA Panel felt that the report required further proof-reading e.g. page 31 appeared not to be anonymous;
- They ask that you revisit the language referring to past reports of abuse to ensure this is appropriate; and,
- Consider the terminology used in the reports, such as “love triangle”.

The QA Panel wished to stress that the recommendations in the Executive Summary should be reflected in the Overview Report and vice versa, and that both documents should be published, in accordance with the Statutory Guidance.

The QA Panel expressed concern that only one IMR was requested for this DHR, and that the DHR Panel appeared small, they suggested that this could be construed

as unrepresentative. The QA Panel suggests that the CSP bear this in mind for future DHRs.

The QA Panel does not need to see another version of the report, but we would ask you to include our letter when you publish the Executive Summary and the Overview Report in accordance with the Statutory Guidance at paragraphs 75 and 96.

I would like to thank you once again for submitting this thorough report for consideration by the Home Office Domestic Homicide Review Quality Assurance Panel.

Yours sincerely,

Christian Papaleontiou, Chair of the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel
Head of the Interpersonal Violence Team, Public Protection Unit