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Martin Lakeman
Strategic Coordinator
Worcestershire

27 October 2015

Dear Mr Lakeman

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review report for Worcestershire to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the Quality Assurance Panel meeting on 23 September 2015.

The QA Panel would like to thank you for conducting this review and for providing them with the final report. The Panel concluded that this was an adequate report, however they were concerned at the considerable number of drafting and grammatical errors (e.g. Worcestershire is incorrectly spelt in the executive summary). The Panel suggested that the report is thoroughly proof read.

There were also some aspects of the report which the Panel felt would benefit from further consideration, or be revised, which you may wish to consider before you publish the final report:

- Please reconsider the anonymisation used. The Panel considered the terms used to be dehumanising and suggested pseudonyms would allow the reader to more easily follow the narrative;
- The Panel felt the equality and diversity section in the report merits further analysis around age, sex and disability given the circumstances of the case;
- Paragraph 3.7 mentions 'their peers' – please clarify if this is in reference to nurses' peers or the victim's peers;
- The Panel felt the report could be perceived as victim-blaming in parts. The Panel suggested a better approach may be to consider what were the barriers faced by the victim rather than placing responsibility on the victim for not reporting incidents;
- The action plan requires updating;

- Please ensure the actions relate to the narrative in the report. For example, the Panel could not understand how the recommendation on DVPOs related to the case;
- Please clarify if the family have seen the report and capture this in the report;
- The Panel noted there was no voluntary sector representation, a specialist domestic violence agency or one representing older people on the panel. We recognise that you cannot go back and do this part of the review again, but we ask that you consider this for future reviews;

The Panel does not need to see 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 QA Panel