

Beth Watson
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15th January 2024

Dear Beth,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Deborah) for South Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 13th December 2023. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel felt this is a good, proportionate review that shows compassion and sensitivity. It is positive that the review has included the voices of Deborah's family and friends who provide an insight of her as a daughter, wife, mother, and friend.

The QA panel would like to commend the CSP and chair of the report for doing a DHR given the murder pre-dated DHRs becoming law. The recommendations are hugely significant and easily justify the CSP committing these resources.

The QA Panel felt that there are some aspects of the report which may benefit from further revision, but the Home Office is content that on completion of these changes, the DHR may be published.

Areas for final development:

- It is a matter for Cambridgeshire Police but there are concerns about the concluding comments about investigation of unexpected deaths at 7.1 and 8.2 – Metropolitan Police Service death investigation policy has been reviewed by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and welcomed as an improvement. This stipulates that the police should thoroughly investigate ALL unexpected deaths with particular consideration to protected characteristics. All incidents of death that police officers attend are to be treated as suspicious until the police investigation has established that it is not.

- In paragraph 5.12, the review concludes that there is no evidence of domestic abuse but in the same paragraph it then indicates that there was controlling and stalking behaviour.
- An acronym “KC” is used but not explained, Paragraph 3.2.5.
- In the Action Plan, the action regarding therapeutic support for families bereaved by homicide, needs to make clear that this is available free via the National Homicide Service.
- There’s a great lesson about informing families on how they can bring their knowledge of the victim and the perpetrator to the investigation. But it does not translate into a recommendation.
- 2.2.7; This sentence is worded to suggest the murders were for financial gain, yet this may not have been the case.

Once completed the Home Office would be grateful if you could provide us with a digital copy of the revised final version of the report with all finalised attachments and appendices and the weblink to the site where the report will be published. Please ensure this letter is published alongside the report.

Please send the digital copy and weblink to DHREnquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk. This is for our own records for future analysis to go towards highlighting best practice and to inform public policy.

The DHR report including the executive summary and action plan should be converted to a PDF document and be smaller than 20 MB in size; this final Home Office QA Panel feedback letter should be attached to the end of the report as an annex; and the DHR Action Plan should be added to the report as an annex. This should include all implementation updates and note that the action plan is a live document and subject to change as outcomes are delivered.

Please also send a digital copy to the Domestic Abuse Commissioner at DHR@domesticabusecommissioner.independent.gov.uk

On behalf of the QA Panel, I would like to thank you, the report chair and author, and other colleagues for the considerable work that you have put into this review.

Yours sincerely,

Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel