

Sophie Jarrett
County Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) Strategic Coordinator
Crime Command
Gloucestershire Constabulary
Prism House
Davy Way
Waterwells Business Park
Gloucester
GL2 2AD

23 November 2023

Dear Sophie,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Linda and Richard) for Safer Gloucestershire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 11th October 2023. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel felt this was a good quality report with an easily understood chronology. This provides the reader with some insight into the number of times Linda sought help from different agencies, and how they were unable to provide this. It also provides references to good practice (para 4.2.60), which is a helpful tool. The report also made strong references to research.

Lessons learned are reflected throughout the report. The conclusion is robust and addresses key themes that are referenced. The recommendations are also thorough and targeted to specific agencies. These could be further strengthened by including timelines and outcomes. The QA Panel also noted the sincere condolences offered to the family of Richard and felt family engagement strengthened the report.

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:

- The Overview Report records that the perpetrator pleaded guilty to manslaughter with diminished responsibility, Para 1.12.2 (and the Data Collection Sheet records the conviction as being manslaughter with diminished responsibility). But the Overview Report and Executive Summary use the terms 'murder' and 'murdered' about his act. These terms should be amended.

- The Equality and Diversity Section (1.5) does identify age, disability and gender as relevant protected characteristics but does not analyse whether these characteristics led to difficulties preventing victims from receiving help or to barriers stopping agencies from aiding them. This should be further explored, especially in relation to age and disability.
- The contents page would benefit from page numbers to make the report easy to navigate. There are other formatting issues, such as duplicate paragraphs, which should also be addressed.
- The report would benefit from further information on panel members, including explicitly stating if they were independent.
- There are acronyms in the report which are never expanded (such as CHMT and GHT). The report should be revised to ensure all acronyms are written in full the first time they are used.
- In the Executive Summary, it is mentioned that there are seventeen Key Lines of Enquiry, but none of these are revealed, Para 1.2.4, Executive Summary.
- There are several typos and grammatical errors in the report. It would benefit from a thorough proofread and revision.
- The distribution list needs to be amended to include the Domestic Abuse Commissioner and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

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