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Siân Jenkins
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Bournemouth Borough Council
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4 September 2018

Dear Ms Jenkins,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report for Bournemouth ('Michelle') to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 27 June. I am very sorry for the delay in providing the Panel's feedback.

The QA Panel would like to thank you for conducting this review and for providing them with the final report. The Panel concluded this is a good, reflective report in which there has been sensitive and consistent engagement with the family throughout the review. This has resulted in real insight into the victim as a person.

There were, however, some aspects of the report which the Panel felt may benefit from further analysis, or be revised, which you will wish to consider:

- The Panel felt the terms of reference were generic in nature and could have been tailored to the circumstances of this particular case;
- A combined chronology would have provided a better multi-agency picture of what was taking place at any given time and what was happening in the victim's and perpetrator's lives at that time;
- The Panel concluded that the Army should have fed information directly into the review as there remain key questions unanswered. For example, how was the perpetrator able to be enlisted into the Army despite his criminal record? The review could have also explored Army policies and whether they were operating effectively;

- Linked to the above and given the relevance of the Army to the case, the Panel felt that a permanent Ministry of Defence representative on the review panel may have been beneficial;
- Given the findings of domestic abuse, coercive and controlling behaviour and cruelty to animals in the review, the Panel suggested you may wish to consider rewording the statement in paragraph 1.2 that domestic abuse may well have played a part in this death;
- The rape allegation in Devon and Cornwall appears to have been a key factor in events leading up to the murder but the Panel felt there is limited information and insufficient probing around this incident;
- The Panel was concerned that references in the report to “verbal altercation” may minimise the seriousness of domestic abuse;
- There is no consideration of equality and diversity issues and no examination of the protected characteristics;
- There is key information in the executive summary that is missing from the overview report. For example, details on the family choosing the pseudonyms, the ethnicity of the victim and perpetrator, the number of IMRs received and the independence of the review panel, chair and author of the report;
- No action plan was submitted with this report in line with the statutory guidance;
- It would be helpful if the report could confirm whether the family were offered specialist advocacy services to support their engagement in the review;
- Please proof read the report for typing errors.

The Panel does not need to review 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 Quality Assurance Panel