

Response to Home Office Quality Assurance Panel Lewisham DHR – Kazia

1. Terms of Reference

Standing Together Against Domestic Violence has used these Terms of Reference for all DHRs conducted by them and their associates, including previous DHRs in Lewisham. We therefore received these comments with some surprise.

The Panel reviewed the Terms of Reference at the start of the process and agreed that it was important to set out and make clear the administrative matters (reference points 13, 16 and 17).

Point 12 has been removed as requested.

Points 14 and 15 are not duplicates: they refer to the two different requirements of individual agency action plans (for IMR recommendations) and a multi-agency action plan (for the Overview Report recommendations).

2. Immigration issues and contact with the Immigration Service

This was not in the Terms of Reference but was covered in the previously submitted report; the issue has now been drawn out further throughout.

Details of attempts to contact the immigration service have been added to the report (section 2.6).

As can be seen from the report, attempts to contact and include the immigration service were not wholly successful, and relied on professional contacts within Lewisham rather than a clear route at the immigration service. The independent Chair and Panel therefore request that, as per the letter, the Home Office addresses the lack of a named contact at the immigration service in relation to DHRs.

3. Contact with family networks

The letter is incorrect to state that no family networks were contacted. The report as originally submitted makes clear the attempts to contact the victim's mother in section 2.7. The Report now outlines the exact process of family contact, how this was done and what the response was. A further attempt was made and the process of this is outlined (section 2.7).

A further attempt was made to contact the perpetrator, and an approach was attempted with the perpetrator's brother that was not successful; this is all outlined in the report (section 2.7).

4. Amend the Panel member list

The list from Appendix Two has been placed in the main body of the report as requested; Appendix Two has as a result been deleted.

5. Acronyms

Done throughout report, including the specific places mentioned.