



Home Office

Violent Crime Unit
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T 020 7035 4848
F 020 7035 4745
www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Sir Steve Bullock
Mayor of Lewisham
Mayor's Office
Civic Suite
Catford
London
SE6 4RU

02 October 2013

Dear Sir,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report from Lewisham (regarding case known as AB) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The review was considered at the QA Panel meeting in September.

The QA Panel would like to thank you for conducting this review and for providing them with the final report. In terms of the assessment of DHR reports the QA Panel judges them as either adequate or inadequate. It is clear that a lot of effort has gone into producing this report, and I am pleased to tell you that it has been judged as adequate by the QA Panel.

The QA Panel would like to commend you for conducting an interview with the perpetrator in this case, which helped to shed some light on how the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator had developed, as well as the events leading up to the homicide.

There were some issues that the Panel felt might benefit from more detail and/or analysis, and which you may wish to consider before you publish the final report:

- Clarify the age of the victim and amend the report to ensure consistency, as page 3 of the report stated her age was 22 years old at the time of her death. On page 16 the report stated her age was 20 years old at the time of her death;
- Clarify why there was no independent voluntary sector representation on the panel;
- Remove or amend the comment at paragraph 52 that states, "Nothing in AB's life could have ever possibly justified her murder", which the QA Panel considered to be inappropriate;

- Clarify whether any attempt to contact friends of the victim was made, and the outcome of such contact; and,
- Attempt to further anonymise the interview accompanying the report by using different coding, as all identifiable references, should be removed in order to protect identities and comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, in accordance with paragraph 9.2 of the Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews.

As a result of considering this report, the QA Panel noted the potential gap in provision for young people with complex issues who are also experiencing domestic violence, as an issue of national importance. The Home Office will consider how best to explore the potential gap in provision for young people in these circumstances, as part of the Youth Advocates work they are currently undertaking.

The QA Panel does not need to see another version of the report, but I would ask you to include this letter as an appendix to the report when it is published.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Cooper, Chair of the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel
Head of the Violent Crime Unit