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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Safer Communities Partnership

XX May 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report for [REDACTED] to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 25 April 2017.

The QA Panel would like to thank you for conducting this review and for providing them with the final report. The Panel concluded this was a sensitive and sympathetically written report which has identified helpful lessons that are evidence based. However, the Panel felt it was a significant omission not to inform the family of the DHR at the start of the process. The statutory guidance is clear that families are integral to reviews and they should be informed about the intention to undertake a DHR and engaged in the process as early as possible.

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

- The Panel felt it would aid understanding if the medical procedure mentioned a number of times in the report was more explicitly defined;
- Similarly, there are references to various medications, such as Benzodiazepine, and medical terms, such as "asymptomatic", which could usefully be explained in footnotes to assist non-medical readers;
- For transparency, it would be helpful if the report could give details of the chair and set out his independence;
- Equality and diversity issues have not been considered in the review;

- The Panel noted there was no voluntary sector representation on the review panel and suggested it may have been useful to have a representative from Carers UK or Age UK and a mental health charity;
- It would be helpful if the report could explain whether or not a mental health review was conducted given the victim had been seen by mental health practitioners during her hospital admissions in the six months prior to the homicide;
- The action plan requires updating and some of the recommendations for the local partnership have no entries in the "action to take" column;
- You may wish to enhance anonymity by removing the precise date of death given in the introduction on page 10.

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 your PCC for information.

Yours sincerely

Christian Papaleontiou
Chair of the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel