

Correspondence with The Home Office

Date: 20 October 2014

Dear Sirs

Domestic Homicide Review of A

The completion of the above DHR has been further delayed. The DHR process began on 7th August 2013 and there were previous delays which meant that the work was not completed in the 6 month timescale. These are recorded in the current report as being:

- An extension of the deadline date for Warwickshire Police's submission of their IMR due to the extensive contact with A and her associates;
- Resubmission of some agencies' IMRs to gain additional information;
- Translation of documents to ensure that A's family had an opportunity to contribute to the review;
- The changing circumstances of A's ex-partner which delayed contact with him;
- The delay in the publication of the IPCC report.

The following explains why there have been further delays in submitting the report to The Home Office.

What was thought to be the final draft of the report was agreed by the DHR Panel in March 2014 and the report was then presented to South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership on 15 April 2014, who supported all of the recommendations contained within the report. The Police representative present at this meeting suggested a couple of minor amendments and these were then circulated and agreed by the panel, thus further delaying the report's submission to The Home Office.

The report was completed before the publication of an IPCC investigation into Warwickshire Police response to specific events surrounding A's death. This investigation was triggered by a complaint brought by A's ex partner. The IPCC maintained open communication with the DHR Chair and at the end of July 2014 arranged a meeting with the DHR Chair to discuss both reports. The IPCC have since decided to delay publication of their report until the DHR report has been published.

Following discussions at this meeting regarding the potential response of A's ex partner to the publication and findings of the IPCC report, the DHR Chair sought the expertise of Warwickshire County Council's legal team to identify whether there would be grounds for a claim of defamation from A's ex partner to any material contained within the DHR.

The legal advice received has been such that further amendments are required to mitigate the chance of success if such a claim were made. These amendments will be completed by the end of September 2014 and will then need to be reviewed by the legal team. Any changes will need to be discussed at (and approved by) the DHR Panel meeting (likely to

be held in early November.) This information will also be reported to South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership. Barring any further complications, it is anticipated that the report will be ready for submission to The Home Office in December 2014.

Please be assured that we are fully minded of sensitivities of this review and its impact on the deceased friends and relatives. We are also aware that it needs to be progressed in as timely a manner as the process allows. We anticipate submission in early December following, what we hope will be the final amendments.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Gillian Roache
Chair of the South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership

Relevant information

- In A's case, there have been no criminal proceedings and it is believed that the Coroner's Inquest will begin in October 2014.
- A's ex partner (although not implicated in the circumstances of her death), was involved in a relationship with A where domestic violence and abuse existed. On some of these occasions he was judged by services to be the perpetrator of the abuse; on other occasions the victim of the abuse with A as the perpetrator.
- Factors such as the circumstances of the DVA in this relationship, A's substance misuse and her mental wellbeing have all been scrutinised within the report as potential contributors to the circumstances that she found herself in prior to her death as a homeless woman.



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Pete Cutts
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23 February 2015

Dear Mr Cutts,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel.

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. On this occasion I'm afraid the report has been judged as inadequate by the QA Panel.

The QA Panel felt there were some good aspects to the report. For example, the Chair has taken care to ensure everything is covered and well documented, and has demonstrated good attempts to engage with the family and friends. This results in a report that the QA Panel felt was open and transparent. There has clearly been a lot of effort put into the report, and this has been welcomed by the QA Panel.

There were a number of specific issues that the QA Panel felt would benefit from further consideration and clarification in order to get the report up to the required standard for publication, this includes:

- The QA Panel noted that the IPCC report was published in August 2014 and they suggest this should be properly referenced in the final Overview Report and any pertinent information included.
- The QA panel also asked that the final report be updated to include the Coroner's findings.
- The report describes anti-social behaviour by "E" on pages 25 & 26, however the QA Panel suggests that further consideration is required to assess if this was in fact stalking behaviour.

I would be grateful if you could provide an updated version of the report by the 30 April 2014. Please clearly indicate where changes have been made in the revised report, and make it clear in the subject line of your email when resubmitting that the documents contained are revised versions for reconsideration. Please let me know if this will prove difficult.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Christian Papaleontiou, Acting Chair of the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel
Head of the Interpersonal Violence Team, Safeguarding & Vulnerable Peoples Unit

South Warwickshire CSP Response by Email to Home Office Letter dated 23rd February 2015

22nd April 2015:

The South Warwickshire Community Partnership met on Tuesday 21st April and approved the amendments to address the issues raised.

As requested these amendments are highlighted in the text and I also attach a covering letter detailing where the amendments are for each of the issues.

Many thanks.

Pete Cutts
Safer Communities Manager
Health & Community Protection
Warwick District Council

Covering Notes to accompany revised SWCSP DHR Overview Report

Further to the issues raised by the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel, the attached overview report has been amended following a DHR Panel meeting (25th March 2015)

South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership approved these amendments at a meeting on 21st April 2015.

The amendments contained within the report are highlighted. The following notes will hopefully help to guide the panel to these amendments and show how these link to the specific issues raised by the QA Panel.

- 1. The QA panel noted the IPCC report was published in August 2014 and they suggest this should be properly referenced in the final Overview Report.***

For relevant amendments please refer to pages 8, 9, 80, 81 and 93.

- 2. The QA Panel also asked that the final report be updated to include the Coroner's findings.***

For relevant amendments please refer to page 9.

- 3. The report also describes anti-social behaviour by 'E' on pages 25 & 26, however the QA panel suggests that further consideration is required to assess if this was in fact stalking behaviour.***

For relevant amendments please refer to page 74.

There is an additional amendment on page 10 which refers to the DHR panel meeting on 23rd March 2015.



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9th June 2015

Dear Mr Cutts

Thank you for re-submitting the Domestic Homicide Review overview report for Warwick to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The re-submission was considered at the Quality Assurance Panel meeting on 19 May 2015.

The QA Panel would like to thank you for re-submitting the review, and was pleased to observe that the comments set out in its letter of 23 February 2015 had been incorporated into the re-submission. In terms of assessing the reports, the QA Panel judges them as either adequate or inadequate. This was a very clear and well-structured report which, subject to the feedback detailed below being incorporated, the Panel judges to be adequate. The Panel was particularly pleased to see the report by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) referenced fully in the re-submission.

There were some aspects of the report which the Panel felt could be further revised, which you may wish to consider incorporating before you publish the final report:

- Please reconsider the wording of the title on the front page of the Executive Summary. In particular, the word "woman" should be removed;
- The Panel welcomed the clarity on whether the behavior exhibited by "E" was stalking behavior. The Panel felt that the report should assess whether the risk assessment procedure on stalking in both a domestic and non-domestic setting is robust.

The Panel does not need to see another version of the report, but I would be grateful if you could include our letter as an appendix to the report.

Yours sincerely

Christian Papaleontiou
Chair of DHR QA Panel