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Amanda Gregory
Regulatory and Community Safety Services Manager/CSP Chair
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26 January 2018

Dear Ms Gregory,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report for the Isle of Wight (Mrs Lowe) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 13 December 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 good review in which useful learning has been identified.

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 noted there was no examination of the protected characteristics and felt that age, sex and disability were particularly relevant in this case;

- The Panel noted the participation of the family in the review process and reiterated the importance of allowing families sufficient time to review and comment on a draft copy of the report. The Panel recommended signposting specialist advocacy services to families to help them through the DHR process;

- You may wish review the relevance of all the terms of reference. For example, the Panel queried whether consideration of "previous relationships" for a couple married for 55 years was appropriate;

- It would be helpful if the report could clarify whether a Safeguarding Adults Review was undertaken in relation to this case;

- The Panel felt that the review could examine in more detail whether coercive and controlling behaviour was a feature of this relationship, given the violent nature of the killing;

- More detailed consideration of the barriers to reporting and further examination of why the couple did not accept support;

- You may wish to consider a recommendation on the regularity of reviews and assessments for dementia sufferers, recognising that symptoms often worsen with time;

- There are significant medical history details in the integrated chronology (Appendix A) and the Panel's strong view was that this part of the report should not be published;

- The review notes AGE UK's conclusion that routine enquiry about domestic abuse would be difficult in a care setting as most clients are seen as couples. As a response, the Panel felt the review could refer to agencies which had identified ways of undertaking this safely;

- You may wish to consider moving the lessons and recommendations from appendices into the main report, as recommended in the report templates in the statutory guidance.

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

Hannah Buckley
Acting Chair of the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel