



Home Office

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Mr Nigel Taylor
Chair - Safer Somerset Partnership

6 November 2015

Dear Mr Taylor,

Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in replying to your letter of 14 April 2015. We have since put resources and procedures in place to ensure we provide timely responses to letters such as yours.

On your first point, you query why the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel's letter referred to the husband of the victim as the perpetrator. In the majority of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) that are considered by the Panel, there is normally a victim and a perpetrator and the letter from the Panel was simply based on a template. I accept that in this particular case the husband of the victim was not charged with any offence relating to behaviour towards his wife and describing him as the perpetrator was therefore incorrect. I apologise for this error.

On the remaining points you make in your letter in relation to the specific feedback provided by the Panel on the report, I should explain that the Panel's role is to quality assure all DHR reports by assessing them against the statutory guidance and providing feedback accordingly. The Panel took the view that the report may benefit from a more balanced narrative and also recommended further probing in particular areas. However, ultimate responsibility for the report lies with the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) who commissioned the review. Therefore, if the CSP is content that the report is appropriately balanced and sufficiently probing, and that the family of the victim has seen the final report and had the opportunity to comment on its contents, the Panel is content for you to publish the report without further resubmission to the Home Office. However, the Panel would be grateful if you could publish this letter and the one dated 27 February 2015 alongside the report.

Please could you notify us when you have published the report and provide us with the URL by emailing us at DHREnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Once again, please accept my apologies for the delay in replying to your letter.

Yours sincerely

Christian Papaleontiou

Chair of the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel