

Adam Taylor
Westminster City Hall
64 Victoria Street
London
SW1E 6QP

28th March 2024

Dear Adam,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Elizabeth and Ash) for Safer Westminster Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 24th January 2024. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel felt that the report was well written, clearly structured and easy to follow. It demonstrated good expert advice on the impacts of Prostitution, with relevant third sector representation on the panel – two DA charitable organisations and one relating to supporting sex workers which was relevant to the review.

The review methodology is clearly described and reflects the range of sources of intelligence (section 8). It includes a well-considered (and evidenced where appropriate) equality and diversity section. It includes details of the rapid review of participating agencies on their policies, training, and engagement in local partnerships (Appendix D).

The report holds a sensitive and compassionate tone. The inclusion of Ash was also incorporated exceptionally well to ensure he is still highlighted even though he was not the main subject of the DHR. There was positive engagement with Elizabeth's family (father and daughter) and Ash's family (sister and friend) who contributed to the DHR process. There is a good exploration of barriers to accessing support and the risks that accessing help could produce.

The QA Panel felt that there are some aspects of the report which may benefit from further revision, but the Home Office is content that on completion of these changes, the DHR may be published.

Areas for final development:

- The contents page could be better presented. The page numbers are not clearly defined and should be on the far right of the page.

- The Executive Summary needs to have 'Executive Summary' stated on the title page.
- The Equality and Diversity would be more helpful placed before the chronology.
- There are some statements made that (although they may be true) would benefit from citing a supporting source of evidence:
 - 10.8 – *'Like many domestic abuse perpetrators, he never touched her face.'*
 - 10.30 – *'This apparent indecision is not uncommon for women leaving abusive and controlling partners' and 'Survivor assessment of the risk they face has been repeatedly proven to be the most reliable assessment of dangerousness'.*
- As there are occasional descriptions of coercive and controlling behaviour, the report would benefit from a brief definition of this and the associated crime. For example, 10.6 – *'These were often very toxic (No-one will ever love you like I do / You can't live without me etc) alongside lots of him begging her for forgiveness'.*
- Paragraph 14.2.1 the author states that "no agency was aware of any domestic abuse between the couple". This is contradicted in paragraph 10.15 when it was reported by the GP that Elizabeth had made a disclosure about verbal abuse.
- Paragraph 8.1. invites the reader to see who was asked to provide an IMR and states "(see paragraph 2.3.6 for a list),"but there is no paragraph 2.3.6.
- There are a few typos and so the document would benefit from proof reading.
- The report feels like it ends abruptly and would benefit from some sort of conclusion.

Once completed the Home Office would be grateful if you could provide us with a digital copy of the revised final version of the report with all finalised attachments and appendices and the weblink to the site where the report will be published. Please ensure this letter is published alongside the report.

Please send the digital copy and weblink to DHREnquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk. This is for our own records for future analysis to go towards highlighting best practice and to inform public policy.

The DHR report including the executive summary and action plan should be converted to a PDF document and be smaller than 20 MB in size; this final Home Office QA Panel feedback letter should be attached to the end of the report as an annex; and the DHR Action Plan should be added to the report as an annex. This should include all implementation updates and note that the action plan is a live document and subject to change as outcomes are delivered.

Please also send a digital copy to the Domestic Abuse Commissioner at DHR@domesticabusecommissioner.independent.gov.uk

On behalf of the QA Panel, I would like to thank you, the report chair and author, and other colleagues for the considerable work that you have put into this review.

Yours sincerely,

Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel