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13 June 2014

Dear Manju,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) overview report for Barnet to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The review was considered at the April Panel meeting.

The QA Panel would like to thank you for conducting this review and for providing them with the final overview report. In terms of the assessment of reports, the QA Panel judges them as either adequate or inadequate. It is clear that a lot of effort has gone into producing this report and I am pleased to tell you that it has been judged as adequate by the QA Panel.

The QA Panel would like to commend you on a well written report demonstrating a robust understanding of the dynamic of domestic violence.

However the Panel felt that the report might benefit from consideration of the following points prior to publication:

- Please clarify who the author was in this review;
- Clarification is also needed on whether the family were shown the report before submission to the Home Office, in accordance with paragraph 50 (h) of the Statutory Guidance on Conducting Domestic Homicide Reviews;
- Include some text to clarify whether pseudonyms have been used in the report where names are given, or anonymise them if real names. For example, remove the name and address of the Solicitor involved in the case; and,

- Revise the report to correct the typographical errors.

We note that you have included national recommendations requesting improvements be made to guidance and support tools for GP's and other health care professionals to assist them in appropriately responding to patients and families experiencing domestic violence. The Home Office will raise these recommendations with the Department of Health to explore opportunities to strengthen guidance to GP's and healthcare professionals.

It may also be helpful to note that our Home Office DHR Lessons Learned document lists a range of tools for healthcare professionals to improve their response on domestic violence. It can be found at page 4 of the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-homicide-review-lessons-learned>

It may be of interest to your DHR Panel to note that National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) have recently issued guidelines for health care professionals on domestic violence. It can be found at the following link: <http://publications.nice.org.uk/domestic-violence-and-abuse-how-health-services-social-care-and-the-organisations-they-work-with-ph50/recommendations>.

The Panel does not need to see another version of the report, but we would ask you to include our letter when you publish the report.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

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