

Sayma Begum
Domestic Abuse Analyst
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23rd October 2024

Dear Sayma,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Anne and Martin) for Portsmouth Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 18th September 2024. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel felt this was a good review that was undertaken with sensitivity and in collaboration with key support networks involved. The report reflects key contributions from family members throughout and includes good reflection on equality, diversity and inclusion.

The Panel commended that the review reflected the experiences of Anne and Martin and felt there was strong knowledge of mental health and legislation that helps highlight the experiences of Anne and Martin following his mental health decline.

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 QA panel feel there should be an explanation as to why the DHR process could not seek the reports and information that the family got access to through their own Subject Access Request.
- The review timeframe needs to be clarified and consistent. The review timeframe is stated as being August 2021 to September 2022. However, the chronology section is titled 'Key Events from May 2022 to September 2022', then the first event listed here is 26.03.21.
- The QA panel commented that the review would have benefited from more curiosity about life for Anne and Martin before his mental health decline and that the scope for the review was somewhat limited. The review is mainly

focused on mental health and there could be more information included about other potential risk factors such as domestic abuse.

- The QA panel comments that there could have been a more holistic assessment of the couple following Martin's suicide attempt and this should have included a carer's assessment for Anne.
- The QA panel noted that Martin was a gun licence holder; the report reads as if his re-application for this was put on hold during the scope of the review- this has not been addressed in depth and there is currently no learning identified or recommendation regarding this.
- The QA panel felt that the report is mostly focussed on the responses to the perpetrator and his mental health issues. Whilst appreciating the deaths appeared to occur following an intensive period of mental health deterioration and therefore there is much to analyse regarding this, some balance might have been achieved if the review timeframe had been longer than the one year, and an opportunity provided to consider other aspects of the couple's lives and engagement with wider services.
- The QA panel felt that the equality and diversity section could be further expanded.
- The QA panel commented that the report would benefit from another proofread ahead of publication.

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