

Cathal Ryan
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22nd January 2025

Dear Cathal,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Bo bo) for Hackney & Norfolk Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered in December 2024. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

It was felt that this was a very thorough review that has attempted to see the events through the eyes of the victim. There is a touching tribute, including a poem, from the family at the start of the report. The recommendations are thorough and relate to the learning identified and there is a well presented and clear combined chronology.

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, and at the request of the CSP, only the DHR recommendations may be published.

Areas for final development:

- It would be helpful to provide more detail on how the agreement to formally commission the review in April 2021 came about and who was involved in this decision making.
- While appreciating that this review pans two locations, 41 panel members does seem a lot, so a comment on how panel discussions were managed would be beneficial.
- For transparency, it would help to note when the Chair retired from the police service (1.13).
- Within the Equality and Diversity section, it is unclear why there is some discussion about the evidence related to women and suicide here, given that this was a homicide.

- This section also discusses the impact of menopause for older women, which seems out of place given there is no evidence this was a concern for the victim.
- The dissemination list (1.14.2) should also include the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's office.
- As the analysis is framed around individual agency responses. There is a missed opportunity to offer analysis on what the family knew, how they responded, and the support/information that might have benefitted them.
- Para 2.2.3 states that '*Mike was not the biological father of Elaine's children. At this point Mike's children were living in the London Borough of Enfield*'. Is this referring to the same children?
- There could be further use of research and evidence within the report. There are some statements where an evidence source should be referenced. For example - '*Expressions of suicidal thoughts by partners are known to be a risk factor for domestic abuse*' (5.3.37)
- Whilst the recommendations are quite thorough and do relate to the learning identified, some are not currently SMART and some of the detail in some could be represented in the action plan instead (e.g. 7.1.4, 7.1.21).
- The Executive Summary provides a good summary of the process and findings. However, it does not actually state what happened in this case to lead to a DHR and would benefit from a brief introductory paragraph on the fatal incident.
- The recommendations within the action plan do not all correlate exactly with those in the overview report and should do. The 'scope' column is not consistently populated. There is at least one occasion where the scope is said to be national when it appears to be local/regional. Some recommendations have no actions against them.
- The report would benefit from a proofread prior to 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 Home Office, 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 Team