

Clare Moody
Domestic Homicide Review Co-Ordinator
3 Congreve Passage
Birmingham
B3 3DA

25 October 2021

Dear Clare,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Rita) for Birmingham Safety Partnership to the Home Office. Due to the COVID-19 situation the Quality Assurance (QA) Panel was unable to meet as scheduled on 22nd September therefore the report was assessed by a virtual process. For the virtual Panel, members provided their comments by email, the Home Office secretariat summarised the feedback and the Panel agreed the feedback.

The QA Panel felt that this is a well written, analytical, non-defensive report with good analysis, strengthened by the use of research throughout. The foreword from Rita's son which opens the review helps to provide context into the victim's life and it is made clear that Rita's children were involved in the review and chose the pseudonym used for the victim. The attempt to engage with royal mail and the victim's bank are also noted as good practice.

The author weaves agency learning and actions into the body of the report, producing a good action plan and making the findings of the DHR and agencies responses clear. The learning from this review for others in the area is also commended. There is very good recognition of economic abuse, including the learning that 'if we miss economic abuse, we may be potentially missing the opportunity to uncover other possible forms of abuse', as economic abuse overlaps with other forms of abuse. The Equality and Diversity section also explored all relevant protected characteristics.

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 author was the strategic lead for Violence Against Women and Girls for the area previously, including the period under review. For future reviews, this does not satisfy the independence criteria outlined in the statutory guidance.

- It is unclear how Rita's adult children were contacted. This should be clarified, and it also should be detailed if they were provided with the Home Office and advocacy leaflets.
- More context around what actually happened in the case in the executive summary would be useful.
- Language and anonymity:
 - The opening impact statement uses the victim's real name at one point. Please use the correct pseudonym.
 - Section 207 states: 'After his death.....' this should be changed to 'After her death....'.

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.

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,

Lynne Abrams

Chair of the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel