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Scott J Bentley
Domestic Violence Co-ordinator
Safer Communities
Business and Resources
South Tyneside Council
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10 August 2015

Dear Mr Bentley,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report for South Tyneside to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the Quality Assurance Panel meeting on 22 July 2015.

The QA Panel would like to thank you for conducting this review and for providing them with the final report. In terms of the assessment of reports, the QA Panel judges them as either adequate or inadequate. The Panel concluded the report gave a good narrative of events together with good sourcing of information. The Panel welcomed engagement with the family in conducting this review and was particularly impressed with section 17 of the report that responds to questions raised by the victim's family. I am pleased to inform you that the Panel has judged this report as adequate.

There were some aspects of the report which the Panel felt could be revised, which you may wish to consider before you publish the final report:

- The Panel felt that the independence of the chair could be more clearly articulated given that her employer, South Tyneside Council, had limited involvement with the victim and perpetrator and the department she works for was one of the agencies submitting an Individual Management Review;
- The Panel suggested there should be consistency in the pseudonyms used;
- The Panel felt consideration could be given to include recommendations around healthy relationships and safeguarding training for those who work with offenders;

- Please proof read the reports as there are several missing words. For example in paragraphs 6.8 and 8.2 of the Executive Summary. In addition, paragraph 6.4 starts mid-sentence;
- Paragraph 3.7 in the Overview Report requires clarification as the Panel considered a 20 year sentence for manslaughter as too high. Was the perpetrator convicted for murder?
- The Panel was concerned at the level of detail of the injuries suffered by the victim set out in paragraph 11.14 (page 25) which could be upsetting to the family. The Panel would welcome reassurance that you will engage with the family to ensure they are content with this description.

The Panel does not need to see another version of the report, but I would be grateful if you could include our letter as an appendix to the report.

Yours sincerely

Christian Papaleontiou
Chair of the Home Office DHR QA Panel