

Tony Kenyon
Bolton Council Community Safety Services
Chief Executive's Directorate
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29 March 2023

Dear Tony,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report concerning 'Andrew' for the Safe-Bolton Strategic Partnership to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 23rd February 2023. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel felt that the report made good use of all available sources of information. Police statements, court information, mobile phone transcripts were all used to good effect. Good use was also made of research to support the analysis, particularly around men experiencing domestic abuse (DA) and barriers to disclosure. Panel representation from 'Mankind', the third sector organisation who provide advice and support to male victims of DA, was particularly helpful.

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 structure of the report doesn't follow the Home Office (HO) guidance and is quite hard to follow at times. Neither the executive summary nor action plan follow the HO template with no timescales and lacks detail in relation to how outcomes will be achieved.
- The analysis is not chronological, which makes it quite difficult to follow and understand when events happened. In addition, the format of the conclusions simply repeats what is in the analysis section and doesn't add anything further.

- Much of the information that should be in the chronology is in the analysis instead. As a result, significant new information is introduced, such as cocaine use by Andrew and Gemma and alleged damage to Andrew's home by Gemma, which would be a potential sign of economic abuse. The chronology is a short table, but it would benefit from being more of a narrative, drawing upon contributions from outside agencies.
- The equality and diversity section of the overview is quite brief and does not include reference to the protected characteristics.
- There is an over-reliance on the evidential status of information as determined by the court proceedings, with the author relying on the narrative and statements by the Judge, rather than reaching conclusions based on the information known to the Panel.
- It would be good to know if drug tests had been conducted following the incident which led to Andrew's death given Gemma's comments about cocaine use and arguments (which are in a footnote).
- Panel membership includes the agencies Fortalice and Endeavour. It would be helpful to have an explanation of these at this point rather than at 16.9.5-6.
- There are areas where the review has stated whether there was sufficient evidence around particular incidents, for example around Gemma stabbing Andrew in the leg in November 2017. This is not for a DHR to decide.
- The date of the verdict in the trial of Gemma at 14.1 should be removed.
- There is no information of domestic abuse experience or DHR training for the chair.
- The review refers to two addresses as Address 2 and Address 3, and it was unclear if there was an Address 1.
- The inclusion of information on how the pseudonyms were selected would be helpful.

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.

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,

Lynne Abrams

Chair of the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel