

Deborah Simpson
Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Strategy Manager & Commissioner
Community Safety Services
2 Watling Street
London
DA6 7AT

24th February 2025

Dear Deborah,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Marilyn) for the London Borough of Bexley Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 22nd January 2025. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel felt that the report was a well written, well referenced, clear and compassionate. Panel members highlighted that the report reflected positive engagement with the family, who were well represented throughout. This helped ensure that Marilyn remained central to the process and report and facilitated a helpful understanding of who she was as a person.

The report also included robust consideration of equality and diversity matters, set out a clear scope of work and included a thorough timeline of service involvement. The Panel also commented on the positive use of research related to male violence and gender norms, and how this impacted Marilyn.

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:

- There were no public health, mental health or suicide prevention representatives on the panel. The Panel noted that this was a missed opportunity to reflect the intersectionality of mental health, suicidality, problem alcohol abuse, and domestic abuse. The CSP may wish to consider this for any future reviews undertaken.
- Please add the Police & Crime Commissioner and Domestic Abuse Commissioner to the dissemination list.
- Anonymity is compromised where the exact dates of Marilyn's death and of HM Coroner's inquest are recorded. These references should therefore be amended:

- 1.4 gives exact date of inquest (also at 10.1.1). To increase anonymity only the month and year should be used.
 - 1.5 and 4.1 reveal the exact date of death.
 - 14.85 includes the sex of the deceased's grandchild.
 - 14.112 - citing the date here enables the date of death to be discerned.
- Please confirm the author's independence.
 - The front page of the Overview and Executive Summary is missing the month and year of death.
 - The footnote 34 at page 15 requires checking.
 - The Summary Chronology should contain a summary of agency contacts.
 - The Executive Summary could set out more clearly the context of historic and post separation financial abuse, to make it clear why this is a DHR.
 - The Action Plan requires outcomes to be added to recommendations 1, 2, and 3.
 - The Panel noted that there are two points it would have been useful to see explicitly highlighted in the learning and analysis:
 - The need for practitioners to be aware of the impact of trauma arising from childhood abuse/adverse childhood experiences in addition to that arising from historic domestic abuse and the appropriate support available.
 - The need for a multi-agency coordinated approach is rightly highlighted. Given the deceased's high levels of use of emergency departments in the hospitals she attended, and regular contacts with GPs, it would have been useful to also recommend a multi-disciplinary discussion at her GP practice for such cases to explore and address frequent attendees to encourage a holistic approach to supporting such patients.
 - Abbreviations should be explained in full the first time they are used.
 - The report requires a thorough proofread.

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