

Dr Ildiko Cseri
Commissioning and Development Officer
Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnerships Team
Hertfordshire County Council
Farnham House, Six Hills Way
Stevenage
SG1 2FQ

28th July 2026

Dear Ildiko,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Claire) for St Albans Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Board. The report was considered at the QA Board meeting on 24th June 2026. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

Please find the QA Board's feedback in the form below. On completion of the changes suggested the DHR may be published.

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 and the feedback form 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 Board letter and feedback form 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 Board, 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 Board

DHR QA Board Feedback for the Community Safety Partnership

TITLE OF DHR	Claire
COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP	St Albans
DATE REVIEWED BY QA BOARD	24 th June 2026
DECISION	Publish with amendments
GOOD PRACTICE COMMENDED	• This is a comprehensive and detailed review that thoroughly examines the opportunities for intervention and provides a clear analysis of agency involvement and decision-making. • The inclusion of Claire's drawing and poem on the title page provides a moving and personal tribute, helping to centre Claire's voice and identity within the review. • The analysis of counter-allegations is particularly strong and demonstrates careful consideration of the complexities associated with victims and perpetrators making competing reports of abuse. • The review makes effective use of learning from previous reviews and findings, helping to place the case within a wider context and identify recurring themes for agencies to consider. • The dissemination arrangements are positive. In particular, the commitment by Hertfordshire County Council to produce a DHR briefing for each published review and circulate this to panel members for use at future meetings and learning events should support wider sharing of learning. It is also helpful that publication arrangements include discussion with the family regarding key dates to avoid.
FEEDBACK FOR FUTURE DHRs	• Please number the paragraphs throughout the report to improve readability and enable easier referencing. • Please review the language used to describe domestic abuse. Terms such as "<i>domestic abuse within the parental relationship</i>", "<i>violence within the relationship</i>" and "<i>previous domestics</i>" do not clearly describe who was responsible for the abuse and risk obscuring perpetrator behaviour. Consider using language that identifies who was doing what to whom and better reflects perpetrator accountability.

	DHR SECTION	DHR QA BOARD FEEDBACK (improvements required before publication)
1	Title Page	Claire does not need to be placed in inverted commas, as the report already explains that this is a pseudonym. Please amend the report accordingly and ensure the same approach is applied consistently throughout the executive summary.
2	Contents Page	No amendments required.

3	Pen Portrait	Please draft a pen portrait based on the information provided by Claire's mother within the family and friends section of the report. It is important that readers gain an understanding of who Claire was as a person from the outset, including her personality, relationships, strengths, interests and the aspects of her life that were important to her. This would help ensure the review remains person-centred and appropriately reflects Claire's identity beyond the circumstances of her death.
4	Condolences	No amendments required.
5	Confidentiality and Anonymity	Please move the information in relation to pseudonyms into this section.
6	Terms of Reference	Please could the Terms of Reference be moved into the main body of the report.
7	Equality and Diversity	Given the important recognition of child sexual exploitation (CSE) within the age analysis, it may also be helpful to consider the relevance of sex as a characteristic. The author could strengthen this section by including research and evidence relating to the sex of CSE victims, including any known differences in prevalence, presentation, identification and response. This would provide additional context for the analysis and help ensure that all relevant aspects of vulnerability and risk are fully explored.
8	Background Information	No amendments required.
9	Combined Chronology	No amendments required.
10	Overview	No amendments required.
11	Analysis	- This is a thorough and thoughtful analysis which appropriately considers Claire's experiences of CSE. To strengthen the section further, please consider addressing some of the language used by professionals within the case records. Phrases such as <i>"putting herself at risk"</i> can inadvertently place responsibility on the child rather than recognising the actions of those exploiting and offending against her. - Similarly, where the report refers to Claire <i>"having sex under the age of 16"</i>, consideration should be given to using language that more accurately reflects the legal and safeguarding context. Where the circumstances meet the relevant legal definition, describing these experiences as rape or sexual abuse would better reflect the reality of the harm experienced and avoid language that could imply consent or mutual responsibility on the part of a child. This would further support a victim-centred and trauma-informed analysis.
12	Conclusions	This is a strong section and the conclusions are clearly grounded in the analysis. To strengthen it further, please consider incorporating learning regarding the importance of gender-responsive services, particularly for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. Paragraph 3.97 highlights that Claire was able to articulate that she did not feel comfortable speaking to a male emotional wellbeing worker because many of her difficulties related to men. It is notable that a male practitioner was

		the only counselling option available and, as a result, her wellbeing sessions were cancelled. Given Claire's history of child sexual exploitation and abuse, this appears to be a significant issue that may have affected her ability to engage with support. Consider reflecting within both the conclusions and lessons learned sections on the importance of offering trauma-informed and gender-responsive services, including where possible providing choice over the sex of practitioners. This learning may be relevant not only to Claire's experience but also more broadly to engagement with support services for women and girls who have experienced sexual violence, abuse or exploitation.
13	Lessons learnt and recommendations	As above.
14	Timescales	No amendments required.
15	Involvement of family / friends / community	No amendments required.
16	DHR contributors	No amendments required.
17	DHR Panel	- Please clearly differentiate between agencies and individuals who contributed information to the review and those who were members of the Review Panel. This would help provide greater clarity regarding the governance and oversight arrangements for the review. - Please include a statement regarding the independence of the Review Panel.
18	DHR Author	No amendments required.
19	Parallel Reviews	No amendments required.
20	Dissemination	No amendments required.
21	Action Plan	Please indicate where overarching responsibility for the implementation, oversight and monitoring of the action plan sits.
22	Has there been a request to withhold publication?	No request to withhold publication.

	<i>If Yes, include the reason for the request. Is it proportionate and appropriate?</i>	
23	Any other comments	• Please include 'honour'-based abuse within the DASH definition in Appendix 1. • Page 20 (Executive Summary) and paragraph 3.1.03: the phrase <i>"Danny allegedly grabbed her around the waste"</i> appears to contain a typographical error and should read <i>"waist"</i>. • There are a number of instances where American rather than British spelling has been used. The Chair may wish to review the document for consistency of spelling and style prior to publication.