

Carol Harwood
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Domestic Abuse
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25th September 2024

Dear Carol,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Celeste) for Welwyn & Hatfield Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 14th August 2024. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel felt that there are a number of examples of good practice in the review. The tribute to Celeste at the start is very impactful and emotive. It captures Celeste's voice and gives a good sense of what she was like. Indeed, it is evident that there was excellent engagement with Celeste's family during the conduct of this review. The QA Panel were also pleased to see that Refuge had been included on the panel to provide expert insight. Overall, the general feeling is that the report is well written and easy to follow and that it demonstrated clear lessons learnt and appropriate recommendations are made.

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 QA Panel felt that some important information had been missed. For example, the job titles for the panel members are not provided in section 9.2, information on the chair could be expanded and there could be more detail about the review process added to the executive summary.
- The document should include the reasons for potentially not publishing the report.
- Although there is good attention paid to confidentiality throughout, the date of death is inadvertently included in section 14.58. This should be corrected.

- This was a homicide (Celeste) - suicide (Alfred), and both had a history of self-harm. The Panel felt it may therefore have been helpful to have had a public health mental health/suicide prevention representative on panel to provide that lens and intersectionality of domestic abuse. The CSP may wish to consider this for any future reviews undertaken.
- The Equality and Diversity could be strengthened, with further consideration of sex in particular.
- Appendix B is missing and though there are mentions of the Mental Health Homicide Review being attached to the report, it is does not appear to be.
- There are references to Celeste being 'Covid Rag Rating Red', but this is not explained.
- For clarity, it may be helpful to consider reducing the number of acronyms/abbreviations used in the recommendations.
- Please ensure that all columns of the action plan are complete for all recommendations.
- 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