



Amanda Murr  
Policy Manager  
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

30 December 2020

Dear Amanda,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Maria) for Norfolk Community Safety Partnership to the Home Office. Due to the COVID-19 situation the Quality Assurance (QA) Panel was unable to meet as scheduled on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 therefore the report was assessed by a virtual panel process. For the virtual panel, Panel members provided their comments by email, the Home Office secretariat summarised the feedback and the Panel agree the feedback.

The QA Panel commented that the report was well written, and despite a limited contact with agencies, the review feels sensitive and due to the involvement of Maria's family and her employer, paints a thorough picture of her. A good effort was made to engage with family, friends, and colleagues and this is well documented and explained in the report which reflects that information was sought to build a better picture through their engagement at different stages of the review. Similarly, getting the employment agency to engage was welcomed and it was heartening to see the level of effort put in here. This has given the report real humanity and helped the Panel to get a sense of Maria and how she was in life rather than focusing solely on her death.

The Panel noted that engaging the Employment Agency resulted in them joining EIDA and utilising the DA Toolkit. They aim to build a policy on Domestic Abuse which would be embedded in their business, supporting by training and awareness to their internal staff and to all workers.

The evidence of domestic abuse section highlights that all elements have been considered. The 'other issues' section demonstrates that the report is bespoke to Maria and has a reflective discussion between panel members. The recommendations are written into this discussion. The type of coercive and controlling behaviour that she was exposed to in her short relationship comes through in the report, though the Panel would have liked to see more formal information in the approach to DA in Romania and what a young woman of Maria's age might have been made aware of through awareness campaigns, etc.

The panel was well represented and included Leeway (a specialist DA agency) and Access (a migrant support agency). The chair and author are both independent and appropriately trained. The report was careful not to allow the perpetrator's narrative to take over, especially in 3.2.23, where it does well in dispelling the excuses the perpetrator gave regarding the murder, with the exception of the last line which said he did show remorse

and regret because he loved her and if he can't have her no one can. The Panel do not think this showed regret but rather showcased his power and control/abusive mentality.

Finally, there was good use of recent and relevant research, including Professor Jane Moncton Smith's Homicide Timelines and the thematic framework was welcomed.

The QA Panel and the Home Office are content that the DHR may be published.

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](mailto:DHREnquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk). This is for our own records for future analysis to go towards highlighting best practice and to inform public policy.

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