

Sophie Jarrett  
County Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence  
Strategic Coordinator  
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner  
Prism House, Davy Way  
Waterwells Business Park  
Gloucester  
GL2 2AD

29<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Sophie,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Magda) for Safer Gloucestershire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the Home Office Quality Assurance (QA) Panel. The report was considered at the QA Panel meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The QA Panel felt this was a sensitive and well written report which takes a comprehensive approach to considering the full intersectional aspects of Magda's life. Whilst Magda's family did not engage in the process, culturally appropriate names were chosen, and appropriate research was used which helps to portray what Magda's experiences may have been. The QA panel felt that the review drew out how labelling victims and victim-blaming affect people's willingness to access support. The diagrams used within the report are also helpful, especially the missed opportunities of agencies contact with Magda to refer to multi agency risk assessment conference (MARAC).

It is positive to see a domestic abuse specialist, including on Eastern European victim-survivors' experiences. It was also positive to see an update provided on the children.

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 review would benefit from analysis around Antoni's bail being cancelled, especially as his bail conditions were felt to mean that a Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN) was not needed (3.2.115). Magda died five days after this, so this feels like a missing area from the review.

- There was no specific line of enquiry relating to self-harm/suicide thoughts/suicidality within the terms of reference, which considering Magda died by taking her own life is a missed opportunity.
- There is no public health/mental health/suicide prevention representative on panel to provide the lens of domestic abuse, self-harm, mental health, and links to suicidality.
- There is no representative specialising in alcohol dependency which would have added depth to the review.
- There was a recurrent issue of language being a barrier and no further exploration of this. There were some actions for single agencies, but the QA panel felt these could have been wider in scope. When a foreign national has a good grasp of the English language, assumptions can be made that their understanding and ability to communicate in English is very good. When matters become complex or personal this may not be the case and more could have been done to support Magda in her first language.
- The executive summary at 2.1.12 reads ambiguously. Was Antoni arrested for the counter allegations before or after Magda's suicide? Was she aware that her counter allegations would result in such or was being pointed to as the perpetrator a factor in her decision to end her life?
- It would be helpful to explain whether Magda's partner/ex-husband and neighbours or old work colleagues were contacted and what the rationale was for not including them within the process.
- It would be helpful to explain why the eldest child was not contacted given they had provided information to other professionals.
- It would be helpful to know what language was used to contact Magda's mother (1.10.1), and whether this included the Home Office leaflets and information on advocacy support.
- For transparency, it would be helpful to know which Local Authority the chair has previously worked in.
- Some names are missing for the ICB panel member(s) which should be included.
- The Terms of Reference (Appendix Two) need reviewing and amending – it seems that the 'find and replace' function has been used to replace initials with the pseudonyms but, since this has inserted the names into all words with these letters in, it is possible to ascertain what their actual initials are.
- The report requires a thorough proof-read, with formatting checks and the inclusion of references cited and breaches of confidentiality removed (e.g. gender of children at 3.1.2 and 4.2.1).

- All acronyms should be spelled out in full when first used. The Glossary (Appendix One) should be reviewed as there are several abbreviations within this that do not appear in the report.
- There are four appendices at the end of the Overview report, but these are not included in the Contents page. Additionally, two of them are titled Appendix Four (with no Appendix Three).

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](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.

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](mailto: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