



Home Office

TERMS OF REFERENCE (June 2013)

DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW QUALITY
ASSURANCE PANEL

Terms of reference

The Home Office Quality Assurance Panel includes representation from all relevant statutory agencies as well as the voluntary sector.

This panel has the responsibility for quality assuring all overview reports for domestic homicide reviews conducted under the statutory guidance. If the panel finds that a final report is inadequate, the Chair will feed back directly to the CSP responsible for the review to explain the reasons why it is felt the report requires amendment.

This panel will ensure that final reports recognise the experience of families, friends and colleagues and are approached in an open, true and honest manner.

This panel will meet bi-monthly and will also have responsibility for the following:

- Identifying serious failings and common themes and disseminating effective practice and lessons learned at a national level.
- Communicating national achievements in relation to DHR's. Individual group members should only communicate with the media if this is at the direction of the Quality Assurance Panel.
- Communicating and liaising with other government departments to ensure appropriate engagement from all relevant agencies.
- Recommending national training needs and working across government to ensure existing training is highlighted.
- Responsible for monitoring national recommendations.
- Reviewing decisions by CSPs not to undertake a DHR and when necessary making recommendations to CSPs as to why the QA Panel feels a review should be held.
- Providing advice to the Secretary of State to request that an area undertake a review as per para 4.7 of the guidance.
- Recommending service needs to commissioners.

Agreement by panel members

- If a panel member is directly involved with a review, or if there is any conflict of interest in a particular case, they should remove themselves from panel discussions.
- Panel members should not directly chair any domestic homicide review or author a report.
- Panel members have agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding and a confidentiality agreement.

Membership and Commitment

A representative(s) from the following:

Home Office
National Offender Management Service
Department of Health
ACPO
Crown Prosecution Service
Department for Education
Refuge
Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse
Southall Black Sisters
IMKAAN
Welsh Government
Department for Communities and Local Government
Independent Police Complaints Commission

Meeting Frequency

The Quality Assurance Panel will meet bi-monthly (or more frequently if required).

The Quality Assurance Panel will be chaired by the Head of the Violent Crime Unit (Home Office) and the Domestic Violence and Abuse Team will provide the secretariat.