



Dear Hannah Buckley

Re DHR North Cumbria (Karen)-considered by the panel on 26 June

Thank you for your robust comments and recommendations. We appreciate the panels experience and the view of the North Cumbria Community Safety Partnership is that the views are by and large accepted in full.

We agree entirely that the panel would have been richer and more robust with the presence of a gender abuse specialist with a cultural specificity. We can give assurances that every effort was made to find an expert and despite several attempts this was not secured. We welcome your further input on this matter as we continue to embed the lessons identified and we will most certainly follow up on any recommendation of such an expert you may make.

We agree with the points made in relation to the MARAC process and can give assurances the process has been reviewed and remodelled to reflect the lessons identified, reflection and change has also taken place regarding the management and oversight of rape investigations in light of the tragic case.

We agree housing options for the victim could have been set out in further detail, we know she did not want to move to a new house but agree this could have been spelled out more clearly within the report.

We can confirm contact was made with the coroner, but no information was provided in relation to the coronial process.

We agree your points in relation to both process and panel members being clearly identified.

Finally, we will absolutely ensure the children's ages and gender are removed from the report before publication in order to protect as best as possible their identities. The panel were provided with evidence that the genders of the children had influence on the abuse of both the children and their mother, it was correct to examine this through the lens of the DHR however, protection of the children's identities overrides the need to learn lessons and we will follow your guidance.

We were very moved by your recommendation that the report was held on file for the children as they mature in order to assist them to understand family history. We thank you for this recommendation.



Yours sincerely

Lesley Storey (Chair of DHR Karen) and Clare Stratford (North Cumbria CSP Coordinator).