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Mr Steven McCourt  
Head of Community Safety Division  
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3 August 2018

Dear Mr McCourt

### **DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEWS**

I refer to your letter of 4 July 2018 about the launch of the public consultation seeking views on a proposed model for the introduction of Domestic Homicide Reviews in Northern Ireland.

I would offer the following comments:

**General** - without knowing the rationale, the threshold for adulthood as 16+ as determined by the Domestic Violence, Crimes and Victims Act 2004 (the 2004 Act) is inconsistent with other legislative definitions of an adult as being a person aged 18+ (eg The Children Order 1995.)

**Para 6.19 (i)** – having more than 1 Chair may be an expense that could not be justified given the low number of cases per year. I understand that the costs have not been fully calculated but Chairs are to be paid on a per case / hours of work basis, it may be a cost burden to retain more than 1 Chair.

**Para 6.10** - where it is not proposed to undertake a DHR in the case of a suicide in circumstances where there is a history of Domestic Violence, this is suggested to be imprudent – there is still the potential to learn lessons from these cases in relation to how statutory agencies work with those at risk of self-harm/suicide.

**Paras 6.22/6.23** - In cases involving 16-18 year olds, it is suggested there would be merit in including a representative from the Education Authority (EA) Child Protection Support Service (CPSS) on the review panel.

**Para 6.33** – given the generally low numbers of cases, and to offer the families of the victims some anonymity, it may be more prudent to publish a composite report annually, rather than for each case. That way a range of lessons learned can be compiled and any lessons can be cross-referenced between cases.



I hope you find these comments useful.

Yours sincerely

[redacted - personal information]