

SOME KEY CHANGES IN THE DHR GUIDANCE (DEC 2016).

1. Articulate the victim's life **through the eyes** of the victim, their children and those around them including professionals.
2. Reviewers are encouraged to **go beyond** just examining the conduct of professionals and agencies to find the trail of abuse.
3. The importance of understanding the **context of professionals** is made clearer.
4. Reviewers are encouraged to go beyond evaluating if procedure was followed to checking if it was sound.
5. In certain circumstances, **suicides** should be reviewed.
6. Stresses **need for a DHR if no contact** with agencies.
7. Greater stress given to **DHR panel composition** (for example, must include specialist or local domestic violence and abuse service representation) and independence.
8. Clearer guidance on ensuring that first, **the Chair is independent** (for example, the Chair must not be from the CSP) and second, is adequately qualified.
9. Detailed independence statement required from **Chair**.
10. A guide to the skills and expertise required by a Chair includes that the Chair should have **enhanced knowledge of domestic abuse** issues.
11. The review should check if the victim made a disclosure at work.
12. If the victim and/or perpetrator were **social housing tenants**, there are a number of lines of enquiry suggested.
13. The chair of the review panel needs to consider if they are becoming aware of information that may be of interest to judicial processes including, for example, an inquest.
14. Reviewers should **signpost family members to specialist and expert advocacy support services**.
15. **Families** should be given the opportunity to meet the review panel.
16. Reviewers should be aware of the risk of ascribing a '**hierarchy of testimony**' regarding the weight they give to contributions from different parties.
17. **Families** should be enabled to choose pseudonyms.
18. **Families** should receive completed and full versions of the review reports prior to sending them to the Home Office.
19. **Families** should have the opportunity to review the draft report in private with plenty of time to do so, and have the opportunity to comment and make amendments if required (Appendix 3).
20. The Terms of Reference should be shared with the **family** so they can assist with the scope of the review (Appendix 3).
21. The **family** should be updated regularly (Appendix 3).
22. The review panel should consider approaching the **family** of the perpetrator.
23. **Children** should be given specialist help and an opportunity to contribute.
24. The Overview report should exclude identifying features including precise dates.
25. Clarification of review panel's responsibility. Responsible for the report being of a sufficiently high standard before being sent to the Home Office.
26. The CSP should provide a copy of the overview report and supporting documents, including the letter from the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel, to the **family**;
27. New section on data protection - mainly assisting disclosure of information to the review.
28. **New form (page 41)** to be completed to facilitate key data collection.
29. **New templates** for the Overview Report and Executive Summary
30. No requirement to express a conclusion on **predictability or preventability**.