

‘Duncan’

Home Office Feedback	Our Response
<i>The footnote stating that Lillian’s name is a pseudonym uses the pronoun ‘his’ instead of ‘her’.</i>	Thank you; this has been corrected.
<i>On page 4 Greg and Lola are referred to as Duncan’s children, implying that they are not Lillian’s children which is not the case. This is slightly confusing.</i>	This has been addressed.
<i>It would be useful to know whether there were any friends of the victim approached under the involvement of family and friends section. A friend of Duncan’s is later quoted in paragraph 9.24 and a neighbour in paragraph 9.34 but it is unclear how this information was obtained.</i>	This has been addressed.
<i>In paragraph 9.28 there is reference to bi-directional violence. It would be useful within the review to use research to discuss different types of domestic abuse, and where bi-directional violence sits within this.</i>	<p>This has been addressed by inserting the following:</p> <p>After extensive research, Johnson¹ (2006) identified three typologies of intimate partner violence: <i>the intimate terrorism, violent resistance</i> and <i>situational couple violence</i> (sometimes referred to as bi-directional abuse). Intimate terrorism is where one person exerts control over a partner to achieve total dominance. Violent resistance is when a victim of domestic abuse behaves violently in self-defence or for self-preservation. Finally, <i>situational couple violence</i> is a term coined to describe toxic relationships in which there is violence, but this is not about gaining power and control over the other person. three factors would suggest that situational couple violence was the most likely. Firstly, neither party ever expressed concern or fear to anyone about the violence and nor did they ever name their experience as such; secondly, those who witnessed physical assaults did not perceive either one to be principally the victim or</p>

¹ ‘A Typology of Domestic Violence: Intimate Terrorism, Violent Resistance, and Situational Couple Violence’ Michael P. Johnson 2008

	<p>perpetrator and finally the physical assaults only seemed to take place when both parties had been drinking heavily, that is, it was confined to a specific set of circumstances rather than infusing all of their relationship. The Panel wishes to stress that this conclusion is both tentative and speculative, based as it is on limited information.</p>
<p><i>The equality and diversity section concludes that no protected characteristics could definitively be said to have impacted on the circumstances of this case. However, it would have been useful for this to have been revisited in the section on accessibility of services (para 10.7). Given what we have been told about Duncan, his age, and how he viewed himself as a provider for the family (suggesting a belief in traditional gender roles), it seems possible that he would have struggled to seek support for domestic abuse and depression. Although this cannot be known, it does feel as though it could warrant a discussion here, possibly in the context of research in this area.</i></p>	<p>It is difficult to make sense of this feedback within the context of how we know of Duncan’s depression and that he viewed himself as a provider for the family – namely that he regularly sought help for these issues from his GP. This does not suggest that he struggled to seek support. It is true that he never sought support specifically for domestic abuse. We have no evidence on which to state why this might be the case, but we have added the following speculation within the report as follows:</p> <p>It is also possible given what we know about Duncan’s age, and how he viewed himself as a provider for the family, suggesting a belief in traditional gender roles, that even had he been asked about domestic abuse he would not have disclosed it or even perceived his experience as warranting the label. Many male victims of domestic abuse struggle to name or disclose their experiences as it sits at odds with their self-perception of being able to take care of themselves / being the strong one.²</p>
<p><i>The outcomes in the Action Plan need to be updated.</i></p>	<p>I can’t do this</p>
<p><i>The use of pseudonyms or real names of the children needs to be made clear.</i></p>	<p>This has been addressed.</p>
<p><i>The first use of some acronyms are without descriptions. This should be amended</i></p>	<p>This has been addressed.</p>
<p><i>Items 8.6.3 – 8.6.5 would have benefited from academic references.</i></p>	<p>This has been addressed.</p>

² ‘Help-seeking by male victims of domestic violence and abuse (DVA): a systematic review and qualitative evidence synthesis’, Huntley et al, 2019 BMJ Open

<i>Item 12, para 2 – Care Act 2014 is referred to as Carer’s Act.</i>	This has been addressed.