

## Fiona – DHR – Summary, Key Issues and Recommendations

This Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) examines the circumstances surrounding the murder of Fiona (pseudonym), a 46-year-old woman killed by her husband Timothy in October 2023. Fiona and Timothy were married for over 20 years, shared business interests, and lived an affluent lifestyle. Despite no prior reports of abuse, evidence suggests coercive control and possible economic abuse. Fiona's internet searches on narcissism and domestic abuse shortly before her death indicate growing awareness of her situation. Timothy was convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment.

- Unconscious Bias: Professionals may have underestimated risk due to the couple's affluence and Timothy's articulate demeanor.
- Barriers for Affluent Victims: Financial ties, shared businesses, and fear of stigma can prevent disclosure and escape.
- Economic Abuse Risks: Timothy controlled financial communications, reinstated life insurance without Fiona's knowledge, and concealed escalating debts.
- Missed Opportunities: GP records lacked evidence of routine safeguarding questions; police response at the scene was delayed and lacked professional curiosity.
- Scene Management Failures: Initial police assessment overlooked suspicious circumstances thus delaying evidence preservation.

### Recommendations

- Police: Expedite policy changes across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Hertfordshire; provide refresher training on unexplained deaths and investigative principles.
- Healthcare: Ensure GPs routinely ask and record safeguarding questions about home safety.
- Domestic Abuse Services: Review funding to support triage workers for Cambridge Women's Aid; improve initial responses to victims.
- Multi-Agency Learning: Use this case as a study to address unconscious bias and barriers faced by affluent victims.
- Policy Development: Strengthen processes for timely implementation of recommendations and holistic risk assessment.