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23rd October 2008

David C. Horsley LLB
Her Majesty's Coroner for Portsmouth
& S. E. Hampshire.

Dear Sir,

Mrs Gladys Richards, Deceased:

With reference to my telephone call of 21st October to your office and yours to Bindmans LLP 22nd October I would make the following comments.

I submitted all the evidence I had at the time in four "investigations" between October 1998 and December 2001. The point I would like to make is that I was not allowed to have further evidence submitted to the CPS in statement form during the 5th "investigation" carried out by Supt Williams and his team.

In 2003/2004 I was asked for detailed comments on 850 pages relating to my mother's medical records going back over 10 years. These records included further papers from the Gosport War Memorial Hospital medical file which I had not seen before. They also included records when she was fully mobile, alert and living in her own accommodation at Basingstoke 10 years previously. I submitted notes in particular from the Haslar Hospital records and Gosport War Memorial file and thought I would have the opportunity to discuss other matters when a statement was being taken. No action was taken by the police. Please note the letter dated 19th January 2005 concerning the Family Liaison Officer

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By January 2005 I was well aware of Mrs Lack's initial statement to the police and vital omissions of evidence. Her second statement which was taken by a member of the Williams team only took place after a retired Sussex Police officer contacted Supt Williams and suggested she should be "vetted". He knew something of her character (and mine). It was on the basis of that statement circa 2004 that Supt Williams accepted that the cause of death was not pneumonia. I have not seen that statement but I am aware that Mrs Lack did not mention that there was no evidence of a haematoma when she and her daughter laid my mother out 4 days after the diagnosis on 18th August 1998 by Phillip Beed, Charge Nurse. A 4 day "massive haematoma" by 21st August would have been clearly visible. This has been confirmed to me on a personal basis by medical consultants and nursing staff at London hospital. There is no mention of a haematoma on the Gosport medical files which was the reason Phillip Beed set up a syringe driver on 18th August to give my mother a pain free death. In a telephone call from an anonymous call box approximately 3 years ago Mrs Lack stated to me that she had not mentioned the lack of evidence for a haematoma "because the police did not ask me". It would be interesting to know whether she has made reference to this in subsequent statements to the GMC.

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I am aware that detailed notes I sent to Supt Williams were not included in the papers sent to the GMC by the police. I have supplied some of them to Keith, Fisher Field Waterhouse and I enclose a copy of my GMC statement taken this year.

Apart from approaching Bindmans LLP (Adamoko 1995) I mentioned your personal reaction to my telephone call (when I asked you why an inquest had not been granted in my mother's case) to a solicitor representing the GMC. That solicitor suggested I should obtain your reasons for your personal decision in writing as I have "a very strong case". That has been the GMC's opinion since 2002 when they were ready to proceed with a fitness to practise hearing involving Dr Barton and before they had seen the detailed notes provided by myself in June this year.

In the meantime you have received the Bindmans letter. Nothing has been done about Phillip Beed. He features prominently in other cases turned down by Supt Williams and upon which so far an inquest has not been granted. Dr Barton may have decided on my mother's arrival at GWMH for rehabilitation and time for my sister and I to find a suitable nursing home (up to 6 weeks) that she was "quite happy for nursing staff to confirm death" despite the fact that my mother "was not obviously in pain". The terminal cancer drugs were written up in anticipation for my non-cancerous mother and other patients. Beed was able to administer them without reference to Dr Barton and in my mother's case without writing up diamorphine injections. These injections were witnessed by my sister and myself.

From October 2nd 1998 until the end of Supt Williams investigations 2006 police incompetence in my mother's case has been compounded time and time again. There has been a far reaching cover up exercise - from statements in the House of Commons (reported in Hansard) to the alleged illogical argument by CPS/Treasury Counsel that "diamorphine leads to pneumonia and therefore the cause of death is pneumonia." I would suggest that argument is lost if the diamorphine is given for a non-existent haematoma and the outcome of my mother's stay in Gosport is predicted by Dr Barton on arrival 10 days previously.

The CHI report July 2002 includes erroneous information from the police.
 Page 4 2.1 There was no investigation - no interviews - no statements - no sight of the medical files. The independent expert advice was obtained from Dr Lord the consultant on Daedalus Ward in charge of Dr Barton and Phillip Beed.
 Page 4 2.2 the latest statements from Mrs Lack regarding pneumonia and/or haematoma had not been taken.
 Page 4 2.3 the 5 cases, Farthing, Yeats, Page, Ian Wilson and Richards had been scrutinised by medical experts. In the Richards case I am personally aware that at least 2 of the experts were sympathetic. None of these experts are being called by you to your inquest and none to the GMC hearings next year. Their opinions formed the critical basis of the CHI report concerning drugs. I am also aware that apart from the 10 inquest cases the GMC are taking the cases of Yeats, Richards and Stevens.

I am aware that the Haslar files were not sent to Professor Forest and the drug charts at that hospital clearly show that my mother was not on any pain killers for at least 7 days prior admission to the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. I was not so close to my mother that I approached the police September 1998 in grief. I was naive enough to

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hope that other cases could be avoided and I went to Gosport CID well aware of the points of law relating to gross medical negligence manslaughter.

After 10 years of warfare with the Hampshire Constabulary from the Chief Constable down, an inquest is my last hope to put this matter to rest. It would indeed be helpful to all families concerned if they had sight of the expert medical opinions even if inquests are not granted. I was advised in 2001 by a Hampshire police officer to "go for a judicial review" and Bindmans at the same time were convinced that I and others could obtain the opinions under precedent cases on human rights. I paid the full account and the others were not forthcoming. Unfortunately on pension credit but owning my own house I could not obtain legal aid. It is only due to insurance payments following 2 burglaries this year that I am able to retain Bindmans for a very short period.

I hope you will see all the statements in police possession made to the police by myself and my sister and also the statements from Haslar staff obtained by Inspector Ray Burt during the 1999 to 2000 investigation. My sister's perjury when registering my mother's death was confessed to the police in my presence on October 2nd 1998. Her subsequent behaviour and cover up in her statements to the police should be questioned even if this causes embarrassment to one of her daughters who at the time was a personnel officer at police HQ Winchester.

I hope you will be able to apply to Ministry of Justice for an inquest on my behalf for I will not rest until all the details of this case are brought into the public domain and justice is seen to be done.

Yours faithfully,

Gillian Mackenzie