

PORTSMOUTH  
**HealthCare**  
TRUST

Dr Jane Barton  
Clinical Assistant  
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Gosport War Memorial Hospital  
Gosport  
Hants

DJ/MW

07 March 2000

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Dear Jane

**RE: CLINICAL ASSISTANT ELDERLY MEDICINE GWMH**

Thank you for your letter dated from the 22<sup>nd</sup> February making me aware of your concerns about the use of continuing care wards.

My original letter was an attempt to ease some of the acute pressures at Queen Alexandra Hospital. As you know there are a huge number of elderly patients as outliers who are blocking the surgical beds. There has effectively been little elective surgery from the Christmas crisis period.

A brief survey, a few weeks ago showed that there were some continuing care beds that were unfilled.

After discussion between John Bevan and my consultant colleagues, we felt it might help the dire situation here if we used some of those unfilled continuing care beds for patients who are clinically stable and awaiting placement in say a rest home or nursing home. It was envisaged that the patients would require little medical input and that we would only move patients who they themselves and their families were happy to the move.

I understand that the continuing care workload at Gosport War Memorial Hospital is quite large certainly in comparison with other community hospitals. Gosport is busy in other areas with an ever increasing number of referrals from Haslar hospital and an increasing need for consultant input to the GP beds. With that in mind we will need to look at ways of trying to improve consultant cover for the Gosport peninsula. I will try and incorporate this into our plans to try and expand consultant numbers.

Thank you for letting me know of your concerns.

Yours sincerely

**Code A**

David Jarrett