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Richard Spalding

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I am not surprised to see the statement in The Portsmouth News January & from Dev. Ch. Supt. Steve Watts "It is one of the most critical investigations for the Hampshire - Isle of Wight Times." It is also critical for senior members of Hampshire Constabulary HQ.

My first complaint by letter was addressed to the Chief Constable Sir John Hoddinott on 20th November 1998 when I requested more professional officers at Gosport C.I.D. to be appointed to any case which was being dealt with by a DC and a DI.

The second complaint in statements form was taken on the 27 April 1999 by the Professional Standards Dept which comes under the jurisdiction of the Deputy Chief Constable (This was after the first two investigations submitted to the CPS) These investigations did not include in depth interviews, statements or sight of the medical files but did include an "independent expert opinion" - on a telephone call to a Nurse and the other from a Consultant at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. It is hardly surprising that there was no case to answer. The complaint against officers was 'sat on' for a considerable time hence the delay by the PCA upholding my complaint of investigative failures in April 2001.

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The final complaint was made in April 2002 but the internal investigation report was not submitted to the PCA until April 2003, hence the delay you refer to.

In spite of formal complaints received from individuals working for the Dept James the Chief Constable considered a promotion was appropriate before the internal investigation had been completed, and submitted to the PCA. A number of the Professional Standards Dept is alleged to have commented that the PCA would be unaware of the PCA not to 'take over' Hampshire HA recommendations. As it is in the public domain the PCA have now called on the Head of C.D Somerset to assist to investigate.

The present formal investigation into my mother's death is under the jurisdiction of Det Ch. Supt Steve Watts who also headed the third investigation, and I have my own opinion why the CPS decision was "insufficient evidence".

Eventually my mother's case will be exposed fully as were the parts played by the CPS, Treasury Counsel, Mr Blair's office, the Home Office and local politicians & crime officers of the Hampshire Constabulary.

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