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Gospat

Crown Prosecution Service

Special Crime Division

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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION FROM PAUL CLOSE

For the attention of: *John White*

Address: *Blake Lapthorn*

Fax No: *02380 362920*

Date: *18-9-09* (Time: As transmission)

This fax transmission consists of () pages including coversheet.

Message:

Re Gospat Inquest.

*New copy of Enuncious
Covers as arranged*

Original to follow: Yes No

Please acknowledge receipt: Yes No

If you do not receive all the pages or cannot read all the text please telephone me direct on 0207-796-8502

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516130/000001/JCW/Gospport/JDB

September 2009

Dear Sirs,

Gosport War Memorial Hospital. Dr Jane Barton

Further to our recent telephone conversation I write as arranged to confirm the relevant points which we discussed and the current position from this end.

As you know counsel [David Perry QC and Louis Mably] have been instructed to advise further in the light of the matters raised at the recent inquests and GMC hearings.

I suggest that once counsel have considered carefully all of the issues and they are able to advise fully on these matters that we arrange an initial discussion between us all [without your clients] to discuss in detail all of the points which you have raised and, of course, any new ones which you consider to be relevant.

I also suggest that in the event of the Crown Prosecution Service determining that there is still insufficient evidence upon which to prosecute, then you may consider that it would assist you [and indeed all parties] for you to submit a detailed questionnaire covering the particular questions and issues raised in the individual cases of your clients. I would be quite amenable to sending detailed written responses and replies to your questions. This would of course be in addition to any later personal meetings requested by any of your clients.

I hope you may agree that this proposed course would assist us greatly in dealing more expeditiously with the many complex issues. I am sure that counsel would again also be more than happy to meet with your clients if necessary in due course.

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I am very aware that your clients will have particular issues relating to their individual cases, in addition to the general ones which are likely to be common to all of the cases. I envisage that it may well assist you when discussing matters with your clients, to have the benefit of written clarification of the prosecution's position on the particular issues as well as the general ones.

If you receive any further material which you wish the prosecution to consider then please do not hesitate let me know. I am not sure if you are still envisaging receipt of any new material [in particular further transcripts arising from the inquests/GMC hearings]. I do not envisage receiving any further evidence from Hampshire Constabulary.

As you know the Crown Prosecution Service is wholly independent of the police and it cannot compel the police to undertake any particular enquiry or course of action.

I note that the GMC ruling on Dr Barton is due to be made on 10 January 2010. In the meantime she is able to practise as a doctor but under supervision and/or subject to conditions.

I suggest that at the initial stages of our discussions we concentrate of the cases concerning your clients: Mrs A Reeves, Mr C Farthing, Mrs B Packman, Mr I Wilson and Mrs P Gregory. I envisage this may help to keep the consideration of the relevant matters more manageable.

As you know I would only too pleased to consider any alternative proposals which you may have. I am aware that counsel will have much to consider but hopefully we should be able to arrange the initial discussion between you, me and them sometime next month.

I hope these comments are helpful and cover the main points which we have discussed.

Yours Faithfully,

Paul Close
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Enc.