

White, John

To: harriet jerram
Subject: AVMA/ Gosport inquests

Hi there!

Re AVMA/ Gosport inquests

It was lovely to see you over in Brighton. Also this is nothing to do with "you know who". I'll be in touch separately about that!

I just wanted to run through some details with you which I have recently discussed with Linda Lee at AVMA about the inquests due to take place down here concerning nursing home care in the Gosport area. My understanding is that the allegations concern use of opiates as sedation for elderly nursing home residents but I have few if any details at the moment.

I gather that Ann Alexander may have spoken to you or to chambers about doing the advocacy on a pro-bono basis. At Blake Laphorn we have been approached by AVMA to see if we will act pro-bono to organise this, but also on the understanding that we will apply to the LSC for funding in exceptional circumstances and there seems to be a reasonable possibility that this may be granted, particularly because a number of families (10) may be involved.

The information I have is that : -

- On 31 July 2008 at 6.00 pm, a meeting is going to take place at our Fareham offices with Linda Lee, Peter Walsh and at least two of the families and possibly all of them. You are extremely welcome to come along if you would like to. I could help to make arrangements to get you down from Winchester and "look after you" travel and food wise etc;
- On 14 August there is a pre-inquest hearing. This will of course be important. I have agreed to cover it if no-one else can but I would much prefer it if counsel for the inquest were able to do it; and
- Following the pre-inquest hearing I suppose only then will we know the rest of the steps and in due course the inquest date and work up that is needed for it.

Please let me know if I have got any of this wrong. If, as I hope, you will be doing the advocacy for this then that will be really great news and we can make sure you have a good time down here.

I suppose in the first instance I really just need to establish:

1. Are you doing it;
2. Will it be on a pro-bono basis - at least initially;
3. If we cannot get exceptional funding, will you or at least someone from Outer Temple be prepared to see the advocacy through. Whilst we could commit the resources on a pro-bono basis to solicitor's support, we could not really provide an advocate free of charge too to do the whole job.

Look forward to hearing from you and I hope you are keeping well

Best wishes

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