

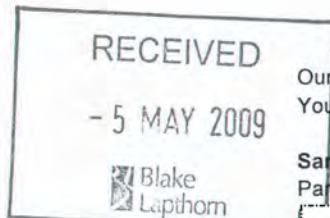
GOSPORT.



Field Fisher Waterhouse

Strictly Private & Confidential

Mr John White
 Blake Laphorn
 New Kings Court
 Tollgate
 Chandler's Ford
 Eastleigh
 SO53 3LG



Our ref: SLE/GML/00492-15579/9977002 v1

Your ref:

Sarah Ellson
 Partner

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30 April 2009

Dear Mr White

General Medical Council - Dr Barton

I write further to our telephone conversation on 24 April 2009.

I understand that you act for five of the ten families who were directly involved in the recent Inquests relating to Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

You enquired as to the role and any representation of the families at the forthcoming General Medical Council hearing.

The case was originally referred to the General Medical Council by the police as a "person acting in a public capacity" under the General Medical Council Preliminary Proceedings Committee and Professional Conduct Committee (Procedure) Rules Order of Council 1988 (as amended at the appropriate time). The only parties to the proceedings are therefore Dr Barton (as the person to whose registration the proceedings relate) and the General Medical Council who will be represented by ourselves and Counsel.

There are no provisions which allow for the representation of witnesses, families or "interested persons" given the route by which this case came to the attention of the General Medical Council. We appreciate that you and your colleagues have invested significant time and resources into investigating this matter. We too have worked very carefully to prepare the case for the General Medical Council's hearing which, of course, will primarily relate to principles of Good Medical Practise. We have been preparing the case for some time with expert assistance and will also have the benefit of transcripts from the recent Inquest.

Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP 27th Floor City Tower Piccadilly Plaza Manchester M1 4BD

Tel +44 (0)161 200 1770 Fax +44 (0)161 200 1777

E-mail info@ffw.com Web www.ffw.com

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I agreed I would clarify this for you and your clients. If you have further questions or I can be of assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Code A

Sarah Ellson
for **Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP**

Solicitors to the General Medical Council. The GMC is a charity registered in England and Wales (1089278) and Scotland (SCO37750).