

Mr C Farthing

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31 December 2008

Our Ref: 516130/000001/JCW/GOSPORT/HP

Your Ref:

Dear Mr Farthing

**Re: Gosport War Memorial Hospital
Inquest 9 March 2009**

I write with an important update.

As you are aware, the inquest hearing is due to take place on 9 March 2009. The time estimate is for six weeks. Presently, it is anticipated that generic issues will take up the first two weeks and then individual inquests will be held in respect of the ten families in the following four weeks.

The original plan was to assemble the group of families and to obtain public funding to represent the group as a whole. In this regard I note that you preferred not to submit any of your own financial details, which would have assisted us to prepare the application.

Unfortunately, it has not been possible to establish public funding. We are therefore left with the situation where we must consider what we can provide on a pro bono basis ie free of charge. We also have to consider whether given the limitations on our own time, it would in fact be in your interests not to be represented for the individual inquest; therefore enabling you to make your own representations freely to the Coroner.

The position is that we will only provide a "watching brief" during the first two weeks of the inquest. Given the absence of funding, we are not able to provide you with individual representation in respect of your late father. Unfortunately in the circumstances we will not be able to provide representation for you unless other funding is available.

It is important that you consider private funding. Our understanding is that you do not wish to commit your own personal resources to be represented in the case. To provide you with a general indication, excluding work for the generic phase, the typical cost for preparation and attending at a one day inquest for an individual would be approximately £4,000 plus VAT. If you were to be interested in individual representation we could prepare a more detailed quote to assist you and also investigate whether the Barrister would be prepared to act on an individual basis and what their likely charge would be.

I would be grateful if you could think over the contents of this letter. If I have not heard from you within 14 days then I will assume that you will be making your own arrangements and I will inform the Coroner that he should correspond with you directly in future. You need to be clear that we will not now be providing representation to you. It is our course extremely disappointing that there is not a proper funding mechanism in place to deal with

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matters as important as an inquest of this nature.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

John White