

Code A

2 Oct 98

Chief Executive
Portsmouth Health Care Trust
St James" Hospital
Locksway Road
Portsmouth
PO4 8LD

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re. CUNNINGHAM, Arthur Denis Brian

I am writing in connection with the death of my step-father, Brian Cunningham, at the War Memorial Hospital, Gosport, on Saturday, 26 Sep 98.

The events leading up to his admission into hospital 5 days before, his ~~subsequent~~/subsequent treatment and the content of the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death leave a lot to be desired, and resulted in my requesting a post-mortum examination.

As will be seen from the attached sequence of events, there appears to have been serious negligence on the part of the nursing home, although they have said the responsibility lies with the Day-Care Centre at the hospital into which he was admitted on 21 Sep. This matter is currently under investigation by the Nursing/Residential Care Inspectorate.

Mr Cunningham's treatment in hospital prevented him from communicating with his relatives after the first day, and the Medical Certificate, when issued, did not seem to accurately reflect his medical condition.

My subsequent attempts to discuss the certificate with the doctors who signed it, before the expiry of the 5-day registration time limit, have been thwarted at every turn. Also, it should be noted that the primary signatory on the certificate was Dr Brook, who was unknown to my step-father and that it was Dr Barton who attended him in hospital. Consequently, this has resulted in non-registration of the death to date and the involvement of the Coroner's office.

I am forwarding this letter at this early stage to acquaint you with the facts while they are still fresh, and to hopefully initiate an investigation while notes, etc might still be available.

Yours faithfully,

Code A

C R S Farthing
Lieutenant Commander
Royal Navy

Copy to: Health Service Commissioner

Encl. Medical Certificate of Cause of Death

PC This is an early draft of the letter that was actually sent (but very similar).