

Tel. Code AEmail. Code ACode A

19 May 2008

Mr D C Horsley
H M Coroner's Office
The Guildhall
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
PO1 2AJ

Dear Sir,

ARTHUR DENIS BRIAN CUNNINGHAM

Thank you for your letters of 21 April and 15 May 2008 relating to the inquest on the death of my step-father, Mr Cunningham.

I should like to draw your attention to my letter dated 23 March 2007 where I expressed my concerns regarding the withholding of certain essential reports relating to Mr Cunningham's death which, I strongly feel, should be made available to assist in formulating questions to be answered at the inquest.

In particular, I have concerns about factual inaccuracies in extracts of the expert medical reports that were read out to me by Mr Close of the Criminal Prosecution Service. Mr Close, personally, had no objection to releasing the reports to me, but declined as they were said to be Police property. My subsequent correspondence with the Chief Constable of Hampshire also failed secure their release on the basis of a possible future inquest and investigations by the General Medical Council.

In addition, the Chief Medical Officer has refused in writing to release a report produced by Professor Baker following his audit and assessment of practices at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital, without explanation. Professor Baker was commissioned at public expense to provide a report for the benefit of the public, so it is difficult to understand why his detailed assessment and conclusions are being kept from public view, suggesting, at least, that it contains something of embarrassment to government.

Have we, the public, and particularly the relatives of the victims in this case, no right to see these reports? Having been consistently denied access, I cannot help feeling they contain information that could be damaging to the authorities, and feel very strongly that their availability for scrutiny is essential prior to the inquest hearing.

It would be very much appreciated if there is anything you could do to have this information released as soon as practicable, and prior to the inquest hearing.

Yours faithfully,

Code A

Charles Stewart-Farthing

Not yet replied

