

BRIEFING NOTE

Gosport War Memorial Hospital – Operation Rochester

The investigation by Hampshire Constabulary into a number of deaths of elderly patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital (GWMH) between 1996 and 1999 appears to be reaching a conclusion with a number of cases being referred to the CPS.

Three meetings have been held in the past 12 months between Hampshire Constabulary, the SHA and the PCT- August 2005, December 2005 and May 2006. The following are brief notes from each meeting:

August 2005

- General conclusions were that between 1990 and 2000 there were inappropriate drug regimes at GWMH
- 75 of the original 92 cases had been released to the GMC and NMC – no information from either body to date.
- 9 cases were expected to go to the CPS by November 2005
- Mrs McKenzie (one of the relatives who was in contact with the media) had been told that the police would not be pursuing criminal charges in relation to the death of her mother.

December 2005

- Total number of cases now expected to go to the CPS are 10, five already referred, three imminent and two being prepared.
- Moving to stage two of interviewing Dr B.
- A CPS and Treasury Council meeting was awaited

May 2006

- Hants Constabulary informed the meeting that the delays experienced in bringing all cases to the CPS were due to evidence awaited from expert witnesses who were reviewing files and a further 10 interviews were required with Dr B re specific issues.
- There were now eight files going to the CPS – five gone and three to go at the end of May.
- The meeting with Treasury Council had taken place.
- There was likely to be an early indication from the CPS once they have the cases.
- The Professor Baker audit is still embargoed.
- There was concern by SHA and PCT at the length of time the investigation was taking.
- Agreed that **Jennifer Smith** would be the main point of contact for the police given the uncertainty around organisation reconfiguration, with Lucy Docherty and Fiona Smart being kept in the loop by Jennifer Smith.

Media

21 October 2005

Press release from the Independent Police Complaints Commission
IPCC issuing an apology to six complainants, who complained in 2002 about the investigation by Hampshire Constabulary.

23 February 2006

Press release from Hampshire Constabulary:
Hampshire Constabulary Detectives from Operation Rochester are continuing to investigate the deaths of more than 90 elderly patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital before 2002. As previously announced, all but 15 of the cases examined have been released from the police investigation. Many of these cases have been referred to the GMC and the NMC for their consideration.

14 March 2006

Press release from Independent Police Complaints Commission
Issuing an update about its investigation into complaints to the Police Complaints Authority in 2002 about the conduct of Hampshire Constabulary officers in the police investigation of allegations of unlawful killing against Gosport War Memorial Hospital. The case was inherited by the IPCC from the Police Complaints Authority when it was set up on 1 April 2004.

22 May 2006

Press release from Independent Police Complaints Commission
IPCC upholds police recommendations in Gosport Hospital complaints.
The Independent Police Complaints Commission has decided to uphold Hampshire Constabulary's disciplinary recommendations, following complaints to the Police Complaints Authority in 2002 about the conduct of officers in the 2001 police response to allegations of unlawful killing against Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

11 July 2006

Press release from Hampshire Constabulary
Hampshire Constabulary detectives from Operation Rochester, investigating the deaths of 90 elderly patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital before 2002, have released 80 of 90 cases under police investigations and have informed all the families accordingly.

The media have published all press releases issued.

8 August 2006

Update November 2006

All files associated with GWMH are in 2 filing cabinets at Fareham Reach. They are clearly marked and ordered. The PA's at Fareham Reach have access to the keys.

- CHI investigation files
- CE and Chairman correspondence with families
- CHI action plan and evidence files
- NMC correspondence

There has been no further update from the police since July 2006

