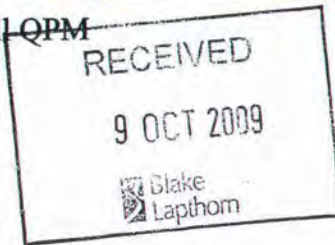


Copy John White Blake Laphorn

RE: Gladys Richards (Deceased)

Chief Constable Alex Marshall ~~QPM~~
 Police HQ West Hill
 Winchester
 Hants SO22 5DB



Code A

8.10.09

Dear Chief Constable Marshall

Operation Rochester – Investigation into deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital

With reference to your letter 15 September I would like to make the following comments as it seems to me that you are unaware of some matters. Some of the papers sent to Inspector Williams were not sent on to the GMC. These were detailed notes on the Haslar files and the Gosport medical files which I had prepared when I became aware that Mrs. Lack/O'Brien had not mentioned important details in her Statement to Inspector Ray Burt originally (circa 1999). The Family Liaison Officer Code A would not allow me to make a further Statement which involved comparisons of medication doses between Haslar and Gosport nor the conversations with Philip Beed. From the beginning there was limited investigation of Philip Beed who also has a Duty of Care.

In my Statement of April 1999 I pointed out that Philip Beed had “confirmed a conversation with Dr. Barton” which was untrue. This Statement was kept under lock and key in the Professional Standards office under the jurisdiction of Deputy Chief Constable Ian Readhead and it was not until the Williams investigation that numerous Police Officers were aware of its existence. At the GMC hearing I witnessed Beed lying under oath regarding the two injections of diamorphine given to my mother – witnessed by Mrs. O'Brien and myself – his alibi being that the prescription was not written up. There was no cross examination and Mrs. O'Brien did not emphasise the fact nor the lack of evidence of a massive haematoma. I hope you will notice in the transcript of the GMC hearing that another nurse confirmed that there was access to diamorphine for patients before a prescription was written up.

You will know that I refused to be a witness at the GMC hearing. From the beginning my opinion has been that this case was for a criminal Court or at least an inquest hearing – hopefully with a competent Coroner. I had been informed by the GMC that my hearing could not be dealt with until all the other inquests had been finalised. When Jack Straw agreed in January that I too should have an inquest (with no help from the Police) I failed to understand why my GMC case should be heard before the inquest with Mr. Horsley. I still have a query why my case was not heard with the others in March apart from the fact that Mr. Bradley informed verbally that he would not take the case as it was “exceptional” and he was passing it to Mr. Horsley.

I am of the opinion that all the evidence could not have been passed to the CPS and I would have welcomed the opportunity to discuss the case with the CPS and in particular David Perry – based on points of Law and not emotion. In addition the GMC were ready to proceed with my case and the other four cases dealt with by John James in 2002 based on the expert medical opinions at the time (Gary Ford and Brian Livesley) There are questions to be asked why no sanctions of any kind were imposed on Dr. Barton – it is indeed fortunate that Ray

Burt's investigation and interview did at least lead to her resignation from the Gosport War Memorial Hospital in 2000. It had nothing to do with being over-worked as she still carried on working at the Rowan Hospice. I would question why the families of the inquest cases at Portsmouth were given details of my case including the details from Brian Livesley's conclusions to which I had never been privy. I would query whether there was any competent investigation into my case after Ray Burt's in 1999/2000 when he was taken off the case and my two formal complaints had been upheld by the PCA and IPCC.

I attended some of the Inquest hearings at Portsmouth – I am not aware of a verdict of deaths by natural causes – rather diamorphine given for “therapeutic reasons”. If ever there was a case for getting rid of the jury system this was it. You will note from the GMC transcript that you cannot know whether a patient warrants an increase in diamorphine if they are completely unconscious on a lesser dose or for that matter whether oramorph is justified when co-codomol PRN has been adequate for pain at Haslar. When my mother left Haslar she was mobile and fully weight bearing on both occasions. The fact remains that Dr. Barton totally ignored the two discharge letters from Haslar which accompanied her to Gosport. My mother could not have deteriorated to warrant palliative care within such a short period of time after being seen by the Consultant at Haslar who approved of the discharge letters and examined my mother just before discharge. It was Philip Beed who administered oramorph within half an hour of arrival at 11.15 am and another dose was given by Couchman at 11.45 am although oramorph is written up every four hours. It was also Beed who diagnosed a “massive haematoma” for which there was no evidence or write up on the file. If this was the reason for palliative care it is odd there was no mention on the file. I would venture to state that the Consultant at Haslar on two occasions was far more professional and experienced than Dr. Barton, whose training and experience is not impressive. This was also Beed's first managerial post. His further write-up of several doses of oramorph within a few hours when my mother was already unconscious from the two diamorphine injections administered on 17 August 1998 is very questionable – I certainly queried why my mother had become unconscious in the X-ray department and was still unconscious when I left the hospital late that evening. Was he covering up his tracks as he had administered two injections which were not written up and you will see from the GMC transcript Dr. Barton was not in the habit of agreeing to injections. My mother was still unconscious next morning when Beed set up the syringe driver. I confirm again we did not have a conversation with Barton about the haematoma but you will also notice that Barton mentioned it in passing but was not questioned about it at the GMC hearing. Once again there is no write-up on the medical file

It is my strong opinion that it was Barton's intention that these elderly patients were to be treated as palliative on arrival irrespective of the information in the discharge letters from Haslar. I am tired of hearing over the last eleven years such remarks from the police and others there was no motive – apart from psychiatrists doesn't anyone know in the investigation team about psychopaths.

You will be aware that there was no evidence that my mother suffered from Alzheimers dementia and I have sent the evidence for that to Mr. Horsley or at least the allegation where this diagnosis came from. Mrs. O'Brien has also stated there was no such diagnosis or evidence of a haematoma when she laid my mother out four days after Beed's reason for putting my mother on a syringe driver. She has confirmed this in her statement to the GMC - the rest of her evidence seems to be chaotic. The drug Trazadone referred to in my Statement of March 2000 has now been banned in the UK. (we are catching up at last with the American research) It is never suitable for elderly patients receiving haloperidol for a “good

night's sleep" at the Glen Heathers Care Home. Dr. Banks should be questioned about her prescriptions and diagnosis as should my mother's GP Dr. Bassett at Lee-on-Solent.

Please note that I do not accept the GMC conclusion that "with the considerable passage of time there is an inevitable dimming of memories" Complaints were raised with the Chief Executive in writing before my mother died. The incompetence of the subsequent investigations over eleven years has not caused deterioration in my recollections or IQ. The Richards case was the first case reported to the police in 1998 five weeks after my mother's death and on receipt of the complaint investigation letter from Mr. Millet dated 22 September 1998. I have no doubt that the Nursing staff and Medical remember it well as it was also the first time that they had had a complaint from a Nurse/relative together with another relative who had an interest in law. They were all fully aware of the complaint from the beginning.

I note that copies of the GMC hearing transcript will be reviewed by officers connected with the investigation. In my case all the officers have taken early retirement. I hope you are not going to put me in the hands of [Code A] again. As an ex Personnel Officer I am amazed at your recruitment procedures and I do not understand how she ever attained the rank of "Detective" but mine is not to reason why or how.

There is a considerable amount of written reference with logical and legal argument for a criminal case. I have a strong query why this has not taken place. I hope I will live long enough to know that justice will prevail.

Yours sincerely

[Code A]

G.M.Mackenzie

[Code A]