

**Note conference with D Supt Steve Watts, DI Nigel Niven & ano. Hampshire police re: Gosport Memorial Hospital.**

**Present: RD-S & P Close**

Police update on investigation so far.

Panel of experts had assessed 60 + cases and categorised then as

- No cause for concern optimal treatment given
- Grey area some concerns possible negligence
- Clear cause for concern negligent treatment – c.20 cases

Next stage will be to quality assure those reviews then to deal with informing the relatives of those in 1<sup>st</sup> two categories that no crime.

Then move to get further expert evidence regarding the top group, with a view to obtaining expert evidence sufficient for prosecution. Will also get advice from a lawyer from Field Fisher Waterhouse who is a qualified doctor and barrister. He is to advise the investigation on lines of inquiry and interviews.

RD-S questioned the decision to deal with disposal of the second tier before getting on with those which appear to present the most likely to have any chance of forming a prosecution. He commented on the time that had already passed since the deaths and since the original investigations. No final report currently anticipated on current plan for another 12 months. RD-s referred to concerns about abuse through delay. Police indicated they were particularly concerned to handle the issues of the families as soon as possible.

RD-S also expressed surprise that police were seeking advice from another lawyer (not a CPS prosecutor) about evidence gathering and preparation. Police emphasised that not seeking advice re prosecution that decision would be for CPS but in accordance with police best practice seeking expert advice to inform the inquiry. They would not be holding up competing advice on the decision to prosecute or not at the end of the inquiry. Case would be presented to CPS following further consultation and decision of CPS would be accepted following any necessary discussion.

Police agreed to share with CPS any advice received from the lawyer so CPS would have opportunity to comment on any aspects with which we disagree.

Police agreed to supply a copy of their conference note.

RD-S  
7 October 2003