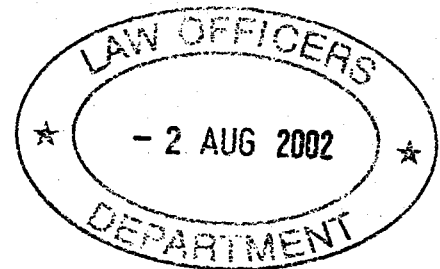


P. 00017

# Code A

Friday 30 August 2002

ATTORNEY GENERAL  
Hon Lord Goldsmith QC  
Attorney General's Chambers  
9 Buckingham Gate  
London  
SW1E 6JP



Dear Sir,

**RE: POLICE INVESTIGATION INTO HOSPITAL DEATHS**

On 3rd March 1998 my mother Mrs Eva I Page died whilst in the care of the Gosport War Memorial Hospital, Gosport.

During that and the following year a number of deaths resulted in several complaints to the police and to the medical authorities all resulting in unsatisfactory conclusions for the relatives.

During 2001 the Hampshire Constabulary's Serious Crimes Unit headed by Det. Insp. J. James conducted what I and other relatives believed to be a *full investigation* into the deaths at the hospital.

On 22<sup>ND</sup> February 2002 the other relatives and I were informed by the Head of the Serious Crimes Unit that no further action would be taken by the police, other than pass on files to the professional bodies responsible for the medical profession. (GMC, Nursing Council). The Commission for Health Improvement (CHI) was also informed who commenced their own enquiry.

During July 2002 the CHI made public their report, which was very damning in their conclusions. High levels of dangerous drugs had been administered with little or no control by the medical and nursing staff. This damning report fell short of confirming that the administration of these drugs was the cause of death of the patients concerned, this, they stated was the responsibility of any police investigation.

It became evident that the original Serious Crimes Unit had not fully investigated the complaints made to them, consequently I and other relatives made an official complaint to the Chief Constable, Hampshire Constabulary.

A Chief Supt. D Clacher conducted this complaint investigation. He duly forwarded his report to the Chief Constable during August 2002.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2002 I received a letter from the Deputy Chief Constable, informing me that he had decided to forward all relevant files to the CPS for their decision. This is most unsatisfactory, as the CPS will again not be in possession of all the evidence, as the police have again failed to investigate any further any of the facts / complaints made to them.

I have enclosed a copy of my reply to this letter and request that you take note that even Det. Supt. Clacher's investigation was **not complete** due to the actions of the Chief Constable.

May I also respectfully request that you enquire further into the actions of the police authorities previous investigations into these deaths, which have been ongoing in a very unsatisfactory manner, for the past four years?

Yours respectfully,

**Code A**

Bernard Page

Enclosure: 1. Copy of Dep.ChConst. I.R.Redhead's Ltr dated 19Aug02  
2. My Ltr to I.R. Redhead dated 28Aug02.



Hampshire Constabulary  
Police Headquarters  
West Hill  
WINCHESTER  
Hampshire  
SO22 5DB

I R Readhead LL.B  
Deputy Chief Constable

**Code A**

Your ref:

19<sup>th</sup> August, 2002.

Our ref: IR/DCC/hjs

Mr. B. Page

**Code A**

Dear Mr. Page,

You will be aware that Chief Superintendent Dan Clacher has been conducting a complaint enquiry on my behalf following correspondence which had been received from a number of bereaved families including yourselves concerning the loss of loved ones at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

As we have not corresponded before, I would like to place on record my condolences to you and the rest of your family during what has clearly been a distressing period. This is often aggravated as the official processes which have to be followed tend to be impersonal and cold in nature.

Chief Superintendent Clacher submitted his final report to me on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2002. It was a very comprehensive document and whilst concentrating on the areas of the complaint, also gave an overview of all the action police had taken to-date. His report was not a reinvestigation of those matters already in our knowledge. On 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2002 I wrote to the Chief Crown Prosecutor of the Hampshire CPS, Mr. R. Daw about this matter. He in turn has corresponded with the Director of Casework at the Crown Prosecution Service Headquarters in London to see if they would be prepared to accept a submission of all the evidence in our possession, including the report by Chief Superintendent Clacher and the Commission for Health Improvement.

It is the Crown Prosecution Service who provide the independent advice on the criminal law and ultimately it is they who make the final decision if it is in the public interest to bring any criminal charges, not the police.

It is my intention to ask Superintendent Paul Stickler who is the Divisional Commander at Havant, to undertake the responsibility for collating all the matters referred to above and submit it to the Crown Prosecution Service. Mr. Sticker is an experienced senior officer who has served for many years in the Criminal Investigation Department. I must, however, emphasise that this is not a new investigation into the events at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital and he will not be seeking additional evidence at this time. Due to other commitment he will not commence this work until early September although I have asked for it to be with the CPS, appropriately prepared, by the end of that month.

I will obviously keep you advised of any other developments but I would not anticipate at this stage

Mr. Page

2

19<sup>th</sup> August, 2002..

being in a position to do anything further until October. If I can be of any assistance in the interim, then no doubt you will contact me. My suggestion would be that you use either myself or Chief Superintendent Derek Stevens as a point of consultation.

Yours sincerely,

**Code A**

I.R. Readhead  
Deputy Chief Constable

Bernard Page

**Code A**

28th August 2002

I R Readhead  
Deputy Chief Constable  
Hampshire Constabulary  
Police Headquarters  
West Hill  
WINCHESTER  
Hampshire  
SO22 5DB

Your Ref : IR/DCC/hcs

Dear Mr Readhead,

**RE: COMPLAINT – DEATH AND SUBSEQUENT ENQUIRY – MRS E I PAGE.**Thank you for your letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> August 2002

My original complaint and I believe that of the other relatives was that the police investigation headed by Mr James did not investigate fully, the deaths of our relatives, whilst they were in the care of Gosport War Memorial.

An investigation of these deaths would have produced evidence that if forwarded to the CPS would have enabled the CPS to make a more informed decision.

I understand from you letter, your decision following Det. Supt. Clacher's investigation, is now to forward a "summary of past events" to the CPS for them to decide whether a case should be brought. This is most unsatisfactory because it still does not answer the questions I raised in my complaint to you.

It does not bring closer the need to investigate not only my case but also the "more than several" other cases which have come to light.

I also raise a serious concern regarding Det. Supt Clacher's investigation. On the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2002, when Det. Supt Clacher interviewed me, he outlined the procedure he would be adopting as regards the investigation. He stated that he would first collect and collate all the present evidence and interview all complainants after which, he would then interview Det. Insp. James, *under caution*. During July the Chief Constable agreed the promotion of Det. Insp. James, whilst the investigation was still ongoing, this resulted in the interview not taking place and the winding up of the complaint procedure.

I put it to you that an **incomplete** investigation was in fact carried out as regards my complaint.

You have decided not to disclose Det. Supt Clacher's findings or recommendations regarding his report. I believe his findings are pertinent and should be included in your and your Chief Constable's reply to us.

Yours sincerely,

**Code A**