

Mr Paul Close
Casework Directorate
London Branch 3

Paul,

CORRESPONDENCE RE: GOSPORT WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

1. Further to my memo dated 11th September please find attached correspondence relating to the Gosport War Memorial Hospital, all of which have been received from the LSLO.
2. Attached are:
 - Letters from Code A which you have already received (although there appears to be additional enclosures), together with LSLO reply
 - Letters from Bernard Page which you may not yet have received
 - LSLO replies to Gillian Mackenzie, Bernard Page and Paule Ripley
3. Thank you for your assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Code A

Correspondence Unit
Private Office

Code A

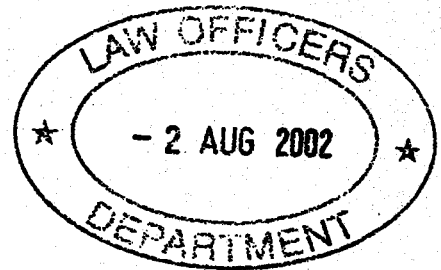
DX: 300850 Ludgate EC4
23rd October 2002

P. 02.17

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 22ND 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 22nd 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.

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 19th 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 29th 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



Hampshire Constabulary
Police Headquarters
West Hill
WINCHESTER
Hampshire
SO22 5DB

Code A

Telex: 47361 HANPOL

I R Readhead LL.B
Deputy Chief Constable

Your ref:

Our ref: IR/DCC/hjs

19th August, 2002.

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 22nd 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 23rd 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

19th 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



Code A
Private Office
CPS Headquarters
50 Ludgate Hill
London
EC4M 7EX



Please find attached my response to **Code A** and copy correspondence.

With the Compliments of

Code A

*The Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers
Attorney General's Chambers
9 Buckingham Gate
London SW1E 6JP*

Code A



THE LEGAL SECRETARIAT TO THE LAW OFFICERS
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS
9 BUCKINGHAM GATE
LONDON SW1E 6JP

General enquiries 020 - 7271 2400

Code A

Code A

Our Ref: W/02/37
18 October 2002

Dear Mr **Code A**

Thank you for your letter dated 8 September. I am responding on behalf of the Attorney General.

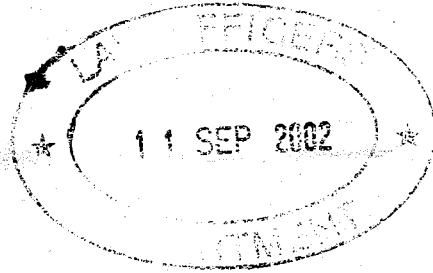
First, may I apologise for the delay in responding. As I understand it, your complaint is with the actions of the police. The Attorney General has no Ministerial oversight for the police and would not be able to comment on their investigative decisions. Complaints about the police should be addressed to the Chief Constable but it appears that you have already raised these issues with him.

The Crown Prosecution Service, which the Attorney General superintends, is actively considering papers relating to the Hospital. They will decide whether there is sufficient evidence to produce a realistic prospect of a conviction. It would not be appropriate for the Attorney General to comment on the CPS review whilst that independent decision is being made.

Yours sincerely

Code A

W 02 37



Code A

8/9/02

Dear Sir,

I have been advised to write to you with regards to a recent police enquiry into a number of deaths at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital in Hampshire. My mother's death though was not one of those that the police choose to investigate even though I have in my possession (photocopies of which I have enclosed with this letter) letters from the police dating from the 29th of May 2001 which state that various members of the police would contact me very soon. No police officer ever did.

A meeting was held on Friday the 22nd February 2002 at the Kingston Crescent Police Station in Portsmouth. I endeavoured to find out why not only was I never contacted but also why my mother's case was one of those that was not investigated especially when some of the cases that they did investigate the patient was receiving palliative treatment.

With regards to my mother and a number of other cases that were not investigated the parents or relative were only transferred to the Gosport War Memorial Hospital for rehabilitation. When I asked a Detective Superintendent John James why he had not investigated my mothers case his reply was that he decided not to and no further explanation was forthcoming inspite of my efforts to obtain one.

To make this letter as short as possible, thereby not taking up too much of your time I have numbered six letters in the order in which I received them in reply to my own letters. Copies of these I can send to you if for any reason you require them.

The last letter that I received from the police, the Deputy Chief Constable of Hampshire, maybe of more interest in that without any further investigations they are forwarding what documents they possess from the few cases they looked into to, to the CPS. There is no point in doing so surely unless further cases such as my mothers are investigated.

Finally I have enclosed, lettered ABCD, documents that are the basis of my complaint. I feel most strongly that those cases where a patient was given oramorph and/ or diamorphine soon after being transferred (within less than a day in some instances) to another hospital only for rehabilitation but subsequently died should be investigated.

Thanking you for sparing the time to read all this but I assure you it is most appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Code A