



# H A M P S H I R E      C o n s t a b u l a r y

Paul R. Kernaghan QPM LL.B MA DPM MCIPD  
Chief Constable

No 5

Major Incident Complex  
Kingston Crescent  
North End  
Portsmouth  
PO2 8BU

Our Ref. : MIC/Det.Supt/JJ/DM

Your Ref. :

**Code A**

13 February 2002

**Code A**

Dear Mr **Code A**

I am writing following your previous communications with us, the last being on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2002, concerning the circumstances of your mother, Edna PUMMELL's death after being admitted to Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

I am sorry that it has taken so long to advise you of the outcome of our enquiries. I am sure you will appreciate that the issues to consider were not straightforward.

You were amongst a number of people who contacted us to express concerns about patient care at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. In response to those complaints we conducted preliminary enquiries to establish whether or not there were grounds to investigate further. In the course of those enquiries we commissioned two medical experts reports to assist us.

After very careful consideration I have decided that we will not be conducting any further enquiries into patient deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital at this time. I have, however, forwarded the reports we commissioned to:

The General Medical Council  
The United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting  
The Commission for Health Improvement  
Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust  
Isle of Wight Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Health Authority



# HAMPSHIRE Constabulary

These are all bodies that have a regulatory or investigatory responsibility who can initiate further enquiries or act upon the reports as they deem appropriate.

I appreciate that you may be disappointed to be informed that the police are not undertaking further investigations. There are a range of reasons rather than one single reason that led me to the decision I outlined.

I thought that you may want to have the opportunity to speak to me personally about the decision. I intend to invite other concerned parties to a meeting so that I can explain our position.

I have arranged two alternative dates for you to attend Fratton Police Station.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 6pm

Please contact **Code A** on the number on the letterhead to indicate if either of these dates are convenient for you. If they are not we will make arrangements for another date.

I would urge you to make an arrangement to see me so that I can provide you with the fullest possible information arising from our enquiries.

Yours sincerely

**Code A**

**J JAMES**  
**Detective Superintendent**