



No 6

Hampshire Constabulary
Police Headquarters
West Hill
WINCHESTER
Hampshire
SO22 5DB

Code A

I R Readhead LL.B
Deputy Chief Constable

Your ref:

Our ref: IR/DCC/hjs

19th August, 2002.**Code A**Dear Mr. **Code A**

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.

Mr. Wilson

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

Code A

I.R. Readhead
Deputy Chief Constable