

Mrs Paule Ripley

Code A

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20 September 2002

Dear Mrs Ripley

GOSPORT WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Thank you for the copy of your letter addressed to the Attorney General, which I received on 4 September 2002, I have been asked to reply to you.

The Crown Prosecution Service have not to date received any papers from the police relating to the hospital treatment of your husband. The police did submit papers to the Crown Prosecution Service last year but these were in respect of a separate matter which had arisen at the hospital.

I understand that the Hampshire Constabulary are preparing papers which they will submit for consideration by the Crown Prosecution Service in the very near future.

Obviously it is not possible at this stage to comment on the nature of the papers which the police propose to submit or the extent to which they will contain sufficient evidence upon which any decision to prosecute can be made.

Once papers have been received by the Crown Prosecution Service they will be reviewed immediately and hopefully matters will become clearer. I must point out however, that the investigation of criminal allegations is a matter for the police and neither the Crown Prosecution Service nor the Attorney General have either the facilities to conduct investigations or the authority to direct the police in respect of such matters. I note that you have already made the Chief Constable of Hampshire aware of your concerns by copying the correspondence to him.

Yours sincerely

Paul Close

Casework Directorate