

I R Readhead LL.B.
Deputy Chief Constable
Hampshire Constabulary
Police Headquarters
West Hill
Winchester
Hants
SO22 5DB

Mrs. P. Ripley

Code A

September 31st 2002

Dear Mr Readhead

Re: Gosport War Memorial Hospital

I am writing in respect of the investigation into the care of elderly patients at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

In April 2000 my Husband was transferred from the Royal Hospital Haslar to the War Memorial for respite as he was suffering from osteo arthritis, which had resulted in bursitis and gout. During my visits I became increasingly bothered about the lack of care shown to my Husband. Meals were left at the foot of the bed on the over bed tray and he was in too much pain to reach it. They were then taken away and I was told that he had refused food.

On 9th May 2000 he fell into unconsciousness and an emergency Doctor was called, who after taking five hours to arrive, diagnosed a severe mid brain stroke. I queried this but was assured that this was what had happened. Consequently my Husband was transferred back to Royal Hospital Haslar, where they confirmed my husband had **not** had a stroke, but an analgesic overdose and was suffering sever dehydration, which was causing him to hallucinate badly. After a few days Haslar suggested that my Husband return to the Gosport War Memorial Hospital for rehabilitation, as they could no longer provide him with the high dependency bed he was occupying. I refused this transfer and took my husband home.

It took my husband a year to recover from this terrible experience. I have made an official complaint to the Portsmouth Health Care Trust and later attended the official investigation by the Commission for Health Improvement to voice my concerns in October/November 2001. Since receiving the CHI report in June 2002 I am dissatisfied with the lack of follow up. I am now aware of other cases similar to mine and feel lucky in knowing that my husband was able to survive his ordeal. However I believe that without further investigation, with a thorough gathering of evidence, the happenings at the Gosport War Memorial remain a public injustice.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Code A

Paule Ripley (Mrs)

Cc.

Attorney General Lord Goldsmith QC
Rt. Hon Tony Blair MP
Rt. Hon David Blunkett MP
Rt. Hon Allen Milburn MP
Ian Duncan Smith MP
Chief Constable Keraghan
Duncan Gear Police Complaint Authority
Paul Close CPS