

Attorney General
Rt. Hon Lord Goldsmith QC
Legal Secretary of the Law Offices
9 Buckingham Gate
London SW1



Mrs. Paule Ripley

Code A

31st September 2002

Dear Sir

Re: Gosport War Memorial Hospital

In June 2000 I made an official complaint to the Portsmouth Health Care Trust about the treatment my husband received whilst a patient in the Sultan Ward of the Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

After my phoning weekly I eventually received a 'luke warm' apology from the Portsmouth Health Care Trust. I then attended the official investigation by the Commission for Health Improvement to voice my concerns in October/November 2001,whence I received the CHI report in June 2002. I am far from satisfied with the lack of follow up after this report was published as it only clarifies my suspicions.

My husband, who thankfully is still alive, was transferred to the War Memorial from Royal Hospital Haslar mid April 2000. He was suffering from a particularly nasty flare up of osteo arthritis. He also had severe painful swelling of all joints. He was transferred to the War Memorial for complete rest. I visited him twice daily and was not at all impressed by the standard of care he received. In hindsight I never saw him eat or drink. Meals were left at the foot of the bed on the over bed tray and he was in too much pain to reach it.

In brief, on 9th May 2000 he was deeply unconscious. 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 that 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 of care, Haslar were no longer unable to provide a high dependency bed and said that my husband must return to the War Memorial Hospital for rehabilitation. I refused this transfer and took my husband home. It was over a year before my husband recovered from this terrible ordeal.

I am now aware of several other cases which are similar to mine, unfortunately ours would appear to be the only one where a relative has survived. I would ask that this matter and the general care that was provided at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital during this time is investigated.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Code A

Paule Ripley (Mrs)

Cc

Sir David Calvert Smith

Mr Paul Close

Rt. Hon David Blunkett MP

Mr Paul Keranghan Chief Constable

Mr Duncan Gear PCA

Rt. Hon Tony Blair MP

Mr Duncan Smith MP

Rt. Hon Allan Milburn MP