

**Code A**

8/9/02

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed photo copies of letters and other documents that I have sent to the Attorney General's Office.

I believe that you will in due course receive copies of the same from that very office and if this is the case then I apologise for the duplication.

The reason though for this letter is just to let you know that I have written to the Attorney General's Office, but I would greatly appreciate it if you could spare the time to read through what I have sent you.

With thanks,

Yours sincerely,

**Code A****Code A**

A yellow sticky note with a handwritten number "7" inside a circle.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S LETTER**Code A**

8/9/02

Dear Sir,

I have been advised to write to you with regards to a recent police enquiry into a number of deaths at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital in Hampshire. My mother's death though was not one of those that the police choose to investigate even though I have in my possession (photocopies of which I have enclosed with this letter) letters from the police dating from the 29th of May 2001 which state that various members of the police would contact me very soon. No police officer ever did.

A meeting was held on Friday the 22nd February 2002 at the Kingston Crescent Police Station in Portsmouth. I endeavoured to find out why not only was I never contacted but also why my mother's case was one of those that was not investigated especially when some of the cases that they did investigate the patient was receiving palliative treatment.

With regards to my mother and a number of other cases that were not investigated the parents or relative were only transferred to the Gosport War Memorial Hospital for rehabilitation. When I asked a Detective Superintendent John James why he had not investigated my mothers case his reply was that he decided not to and no further explanation was forthcoming inspite of my efforts to obtain one.

To make this letter as short as possible, thereby not taking up too much of your time I have numbered six letters in the order in which I received them in reply to my own letters. Copies of these I can send to you if for any reason you require them.

The last letter that I received from the police, the Deputy Chief Constable of Hampshire, maybe of more interest in that without any further investigations they are forwarding what documents they possess from the few cases they looked into to, to the CPS. There is no point in doing so surely unless further cases such as my mothers are investigated.

Finally I have enclosed, lettered ABCD, documents that are the basis of my complaint. I feel most strongly that those cases where a patient was given oramorph and/ or diamorphine soon after being transferred (within less than a day in some instances) to another hospital only for rehabilitation but subsequently died should be investigated.

Thanking you for sparing the time to read all this but I assure you it is most appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

**Code A**



# 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 MIPD  
Chief Constable

Criminal Investigation Department  
Police Headquarters  
West Hill  
Winchester  
Hampshire  
SO22 5DB

No 1

Our Ref. : HQ/CID/DCI 7410/2001

Your Ref. :

Tel. : **Redacted**

Extn. : **Code A**

29<sup>th</sup> May 2001

**Code A**

**Code A**

Dear **Code A**

## Re: Portsmouth Health Care (NHS) Trust

I am writing to advise you that with effect from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2001 the Senior Investigating Officer (SIO), in charge of the police enquiry into the circumstances of the death of a patient at the War Memorial Hospital (Gosport) on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 1998 and any other alleged criminal matters that may stem from this investigation, became Detective Superintendent John James.

Detective Superintendent James is based at the Major Incident Complex, Police Station, Kingston Crescent, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO2 8BU (telephone no. 0845 045 4545 ext. **Code A**)

**Code A**

The papers that you recently forwarded to me have been passed to the Major Incident Complex and I will be fully briefing Mr James on this and, indeed, all aspects of the investigation. I am sure that a member of the enquiry team will contact you very soon.

Thank you for the assistance given to me during my tenure as SIO.

Yours Sincerely,

**Code A**

Ray Burt  
Detective Chief Inspector





# 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**

**Code A**

Major Incident Complex,  
 Fratton Police Station  
 Kingston Crescent  
 North End  
 Portsmouth  
 PO2 8BU

No 2

Our Ref. : MIC/DCI/PC/MK

Your Ref. :

Tel. : **Code A**  
 Direct Dial : **Code A**  
 Fax. : **Code A**

24 August 2001

**Code A**

Dear Mr. Wilson,

With reference to your letter of the 20<sup>th</sup> August, I regret I was unable to find a telephone number for you.

Under the circumstances, it would be prudent that either I, or one of my team, come and talk to you personally.

Let me assure you that this enquiry is being taken very seriously indeed but it is a complex and sensitive issue. We are determined to ensure that the conduct of the investigation is appropriate, justified and has absolute integrity.

I am on Annual Leave now until the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2001. If you do not hear from anyone before this date, please contact me on **Code A** or Mobile **Code A** in order that we can arrange to meet.

**Code A**

**P. E. CLARK**  
**Detective Chief Inspector**



# 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 3

Major Incident Complex  
Kingston Crescent  
North End  
Portsmouth  
PO2 8BU

Our Ref. :

Your Ref. :

Tel . : 0845 045 45 45  
Direct Dial :  
Fax . : 023 9289 1562

15 November 2001

**Code A**

Dear Mr **Code A**

**Reference: Gosport War Memorial Hospital**

You will recall that you have previously been in contact with Hampshire Police concerning patient care at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. At this time our enquiries are not complete but I will advise you when they are finalised.

My purpose in writing to you is to draw to your attention an investigation being conducted by the Commission to Health Improvement into a range of issues concerned with Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

The manager for that investigation, Julie MILLAR, has asked me to write to you to advise you of their investigation in order that you may also contact them to discuss your concerns.

Ms MILLAR can be contacted at the following address:

Commission for Health Improvement  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Finsbury Tower  
103-105 Bunhill Row  
LONDON  
EC1Y 8TG

Their telephone number is: **Redacted**  
Their Fax number is: 020 7448 9222



# HAMPSHIRE Constabulary

---

I will be writing to you again in the next few weeks to advise you of our intentions in relation to further investigations.

Yours sincerely

**Code A**

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





No 4

Hampshire Constabulary  
Police Headquarters  
West Hill  
WINCHESTER  
Hampshire  
SO22 5DB

Tel: 0845 0454545

Fax: 01962 871204

Telex: **Code A**

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

7 February 2002

Your ref:

Our ref: CC/LR/smg/79.02

**Code A****Code A**Dear Mr **Code A**

I am writing on behalf of the Chief Constable to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 25 January 2002, concerning the Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

Mr Kernaghan has asked me to direct your correspondence to Detective Superintendent James so that he may address the issues you have raised, and arrange for a response in due course.

Yours sincerely

**Code A**

**L Rickwood [Inspector]**  
Staff Officer to Paul Kernaghan  
Chief Constable



# 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. :

Tel. : 0845 045 45 45

Direct Dial : **Code A**

Fax. : 02392 891884

13 February 2002

Mr **Code A**

**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  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**



No 6.

Hampshire Constabulary  
 Police Headquarters  
 West Hill  
 WINCHESTER  
 Hampshire  
 SO22 5DB

Tel: 01962 841500

**I R Readhead LL.B**  
 Deputy Chief Constable

**Fax: 01962 871189**  
**Telex: 47361 HANPOL**

Your ref:

Our ref: IR/DCC/hjs

19<sup>th</sup> August, 2002.

Mr. **Code A**  
**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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

2

19<sup>th</sup> August, 2002..

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.

~~Yours sincerely,~~

**Code A**

I.R. Readhead  
Deputy Chief Constable



A

~~Page 6~~

PORTSMOUTH  
**HealthCare**  
NHS  
TRUST

DR A LORD FRCP  
CONSULTANT GERIATRICIAN

AL/SCJ/G81278

6 November 1998

Colonel Bowyer  
Royal Hospital Haslar  
Haslar  
Gosport

Elderly Medicine  
Queen Alexandra Hospital  
Cosham  
Portsmouth PO6 3LY  
Tel: 01705 822444  
Extension: 6923  
Fax: 01705 200381

Dear Colonel Bowyer

WARD VISIT E3 HASLAR  
Edna PURNELL, DoB 18.3.07  
Addenbrookes RH, Willis Road, Gosport

Thank you for referring Mrs Purnell whom I visited on E3 at Haslar on 5.11.98. She fractured her right neck of femur and post operatively has problems with dependent oedema affecting both lower limbs and the left upper limb (likely to be hypoproteinaemic), is poorly mobile just being able to stand with 2, is catheterised and has occasional faecal soiling. She also has bilateral pressure sores on her heels. She is eating well but has a poor fluid intake.

Her past medical history includes moderate dementia for at least 3 years now, a TIA in October last year, and also has a pessary insitu for a vaginal wall prolapse.

Her blood pressure today was 110/80. Although she was confused she knew she was in hospital and had been there as she had a fracture of her right hip. I feel that Bendrofluazide 2.5mgs can be continued for the present but if her oedema worsens she may require a loop diuretic. I feel that the morning dose of Thioridazine could be discontinued and would recommend that she is on a high protein diet. I would also be grateful if her Us and Es, liver function tests and calcium could please be repeated.

Her son and daughter-in-law were present when I visited and I have pointed out to them that rehabilitation was going to be very difficult given her mental state and pressure sores. They have agreed to a month's gentle rehabilitation in an NHS continuing care bed for a month initially. Unless there is a dramatic improvement in her function I feel she will need a nursing home.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

A LORD

cc DrBurton  
Dr Bailes

NOT  
TERMINALLY  
ILL

A

ja/mvh/gwmhlet.e

19 November 1998

Person-In-Charge  
Dryad Ward  
Gosport War Mem  
Bury Road  
GOSPORT  
Hants

Dear Colleague

Re: Edna PURNELL

Could you please sti

Thank you for your

Yours sincerely

*Janet*

Janet Allen  
Senior MLSO  
Infection Control Ser





HASLAA HOSPITAL.

MRS. E. I. PURNELL

C

H00015125



PURNELL EDNA I  
 18031907 F NHS MRS  
 ADDENBROOKE REST HOME  
 WILLIS ROAD  
 GOSPORT PO12 1NA  
 DR. G BURLEIN

25/10/98

DICLOFENAC SR

75mg TWICE DAILY

BEST AS  
RECORDED

CS CODAPAROL.

2 TABLETS. 4x DAILY

NONE TAKEN

AFTER 5/11/98

" " "

NO PAINKILLING MEDICATION OF ANY KIND  
 NEEDED DURING THE WEEK PRIOR TO BEING  
 TRANSFERRED TO THE GOSPORT WAR MEMORIAL  
 HOSPITAL.



# As required Prescriptions

HASLAR HOSPITAL RECORDS MRS. E. I. PURNELL,

Drug	Date	Time	Dose	Given	Date	Time	Dose	Given	Date	Time	Dose	Given
Morphine	26/10/98	0115	10mg	CG								
Dose: 10mg	Route: 1m	Freq: 3-4hly										
Signature/Date		25.10.98										
DIRECTIONS		(C)										
Stemetil	26/10	0115	10mg	CG								
Dose: 10mg	Route: 1m	Freq: TD										
Signature/Date		25-10-98										
DIRECTIONS												
Propoxyphene	25/10/98											
Dose: TT	Route: PO	Freq: QDS										
Signature/Date		25/10/98										
DIRECTIONS												
Indoparac SR	30/10	1200	75mg	nt								
Dose: 75mg	Route: PO	Freq: BD										
Signature/Date		25/10/98										
DIRECTIONS		WITH FOOD										
Soluble Co-codamol	25/10	2200	TT	CG	15/40	TT	14/98	CG	5/11	0900	TT	CG
Dose: TT	Route: PO	Freq: QDS										
Signature/Date		25/10/98										
DIRECTIONS		s										
	28/10	1445	TT	CG	2035	TT	11/11	CG	5/11	1870	TT	CG
	30/10	1200	TT	CG	09/11/98	2040	TWO	BW				
	31/10	1620	TWO	AS	3/11	1615	TT	CG				
	31/10	2359	TT	CG	4/11	09.00	TT	CG				
	01/11	0820	TWO	AS	4/11	2220	TT	AS				
Dose	Route	Freq.										
Signature/Date												
DIRECTIONS												
Dose	Route	Freq.										
Signature/Date												
DIRECTIONS												



### KEY FINDINGS

THIS SECTION FROM CHAPTER 4 PAGE 19

1. CHI has serious concerns regarding the quantity, combination, lack of review and anticipatory prescribing of medicines prescribed to older people on Dryad and Daedalus wards in 1998. A protocol existed in 1998 for palliative care prescribing (the "Wessex guidelines") but this was inappropriately applied to patients admitted for rehabilitation.

### KEY FINDINGS

THIS SECTION FROM CHAPTER 5 PAGE 26

1. Relatives speaking to CHI had some serious concerns about the care their relatives received on Daedalus and Dryad wards between 1998 and 2001. The instances of concern expressed to CHI were at their highest in 1998. Fewer concerns were expressed regarding the quality of care received on Sultan ward.

### KEY FINDINGS

THIS SECTION FROM CHAPTER 6 PAGE 33

1. Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust did not have any systems in place to monitor and appraise the performance of clinical assistants. There were no arrangements in place for the adequate supervision of the clinical assistant working on Daedalus and Dryad wards. It was not made clear to CHI how GPs working as clinical assistants and admitting patients to Sultan wards are included in the development of trust procedures and clinical governance arrangements.

### KEY FINDINGS

THIS SECTION FROM CHAPTER 7 PAGE PAGE 38

1. The police investigation, the review of the Health Service Commissioner, the independent review panel and the trust's own pharmacy data did not provide the trigger for the trust to undertake an review of prescribing practices. The trust should have responded earlier to concerns expressed around levels of sedation which it was aware of in late 1998.

FROM SECTION TWO OF CHI REPORT PAGE 4  
2.3 Local media coverage in March 2001 resulted in 11 other families raising concerns about the circumstances of their relatives' deaths in 1997 and 1998. The police decided to refer four of these deaths for expert opinion to determine whether or not a further, more extensive investigation was appropriate. Two expert reports were received in December 2001 which were made available to CHI. These reports raised very serious clinical concerns regarding prescribing practices in the trust in 1998.

THIS SECTION FROM CHAPTER 5 PAGE 23

5.12 The use of pain relieving medicines and the use of syringe drivers to administer them was commented on by a number of relatives. One relative commented that her mother "certainly was not in pain prior to transfer to the War Memorial". Although a number of relatives confirmed that staff did speak to them before medication was delivered by a syringe driver, CHI also received comments that families would have liked more information: "Doctors should disclose all drugs, why [they are being used] and what the side effects are. There should be more honesty".

THIS REMARK WAS  
BY ME AS MY  
MOTHER DID NOT  
REQUIRE ANY  
PAINKILLING MEDICATION  
DURING HER FINAL WEEK  
(5<sup>TH</sup> NOV 98 - 11<sup>TH</sup> NOV 98)  
AS A PATIENT IN THE  
ROYAL HASLAR HOSPITAL.  
MEDICAL RECORDS IN MY  
POSSESSION SUPPORT THIS.