

Close Paul

From: Code A
Sent: 11 July 2006 16:48
To: Close Paul
Subject: FW: Gosport War Memorial Hospital Deaths

Paul

Hampshire Police issued the following press release today:

Hampshire Constabulary detectives from Operation Rochester, investigating the deaths of 90 elderly patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital before 2002, have released 80 of 90 cases under police investigation and have informed all the families accordingly.

Detective Superintendent David Williams said: "Following extensive investigation and reference to medical experts it has been established that there has been no criminal negligence in respect of the 80 cases. However, issues have been raised in respect of the standard of care in some of those cases which have been forwarded to the General Medical Council and Nursing and Midwifery Council for their attention.

"We continue to fully investigate the 10 remaining complaints made to us which are now at an extremely advanced stage and have received considerable co-operation from the Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust in facilitating interviews with staff.

"This investigation has been necessarily detailed and thorough, given the complexity of issues. I feel confident that the Crown Prosecution Service has all available evidence upon which to properly consider the determination of the investigation."

We've had a queue of media calls today - Code A interesting exchange with a BBC journalist is below. Basically we have just said the matter remains under consideration. Can I just check with you that that remains the case please?

Code A
Press Officer
Crown Prosecution Service
Tel: Code A

From: Code A
Sent: 11 July 2006 14:41
To: 'Dominic Blake'
Subject: RE: Gosport War Memorial Hospital Deaths

Dear Dominic

I have not been involved in the Hampshire Police's press release and have not received a copy. I did not know any press release was being issued.

From what I have seen on PA, it relates entirely to the police investigation and confirms that the CPS is considering files. **PA quite clearly states that files have been sent to the CPS to decide if there is enough evidence. We have not made any decisions yet. No cases have been dropped because no decisions have been made.**

As you have been told on several occasions, we will try to keep you informed about what's happening from the CPS point of view. As far as we are concerned, nothing has changed and the case is still under

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consideration.

We will do our best to give you guidance on when to ring for the decision, but you cannot expect to be told what is happening before the victims' families or any potential defendants – it would be wrong for them to discover what is happening via the media rather than through the authorities.

Best wishes

Code A

From: Dominic Blake [mailto:Code A]
Sent: 11 July 2006 14:09
To: Code A
Subject: FW: Gosport War Memorial Hospital Deaths

Dear Code A

I was extremely concerned to see a press release from Hampshire Police this morning saying that all but 10 cases in the Gosport War Memorial Hospital Deaths inquiry have been dropped. I messaged you on Friday asking to be kept informed of likely developments in this case and was given no indication that this was about to happen - and I asked for your help in avoiding this exact situation (see below). Couldn't you let me know how it was that you weren't aware that this was about to happen? Did you actually check with anyone? Also - why did the release come from the police when it's clearly a CPS decision? Please let me know.
 Regards, Dominic

Dominic Blake
BBC Radio Solent

From: Dominic Blake
Sent: 07 July 2006 09:46
To: Code A
Subject: RE: Gosport War Memorial Hospital Deaths

Thanks Code A

Thank you for your note - I'm under severe pressure to make sure that we don't find out about developments from a press release which goes to everyone. We just need an indication that things are moving along a few days before any announcement. Your help will be hugely appreciated, Kind regards, Dominic

From: Code A [mailto:Code A]
Sent: 06 July 2006 17:11
To: Dominic Blake
Subject: RE: Gosport War Memorial Hospital Deaths

Dear Dominic

Thank you for your email. We will certainly do our best to keep you up to date on what's happening and we have you on our list of people to notify when a decision is made, but it is still a good idea for you to ring in on a regular basis as it keeps you in our minds.

Best wishes

Code A

From: Dominic Blake [mailto:Code A]
Sent: 06 July 2006 14:42

28/07/2006

To: **Code A**
Subject: Gosport War Memorial Hospital Deaths

To **Code A**

Dear **Code A**

Code A suggested that I drop you a line. I'm working for the BBC in Portsmouth and have been instructed by my News Editor Adam Blackmore to keep a close eye on developments in the case of the deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. I've been phoning the CPS press office every few months, but I understand that I will not necessarily have any warning about decisions in this case by phoning like this. **Code A** said that you would be able to keep me better informed if I registered a specific interest, and asked for a week's notice of developments in the case. Could you keep my details (below) and let Adam and I know if anything is likely to happen. We'd rather get a 'head's up' and then find that there was a further delay - than to be caught cold.

Kind regards,

Dominic Blake
Portsmouth Reporter
BBC Radio Solent

Code A

Code A

Adam Blackmore
Head of News

Code A

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