

APP.A .14.3.19

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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

Major Crime Complex
Fratton Police Station
Kingston Crescent
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Our Ref. HQ/E/CID/DCI/2000

Your Ref.

Code A

8th February 2000

Mrs L. HUMPHREY
Quality Manager
Portsmouth Health Care NHS Trust
Central Office, St James' Hospital,
Locksway Road, PORTSMOUTH,
Hampshire. PO4 8LD

Dear Lesley,

I hope you received the x-ray images and papers that I left for you at the Reception Desk at St James' Hospital on the 29th January 2000. A young lady called **Code A** kindly signed for them. Did you understand my scribbled notes about the small alteration to page 6 of your statement? I would be grateful if you would make the alteration, initial it, and send it back to me. I apologise for putting you to this trouble, I should have spotted it first time around.

I wonder if I could now, as touched upon in my letter of the 29th January 2000, raise a few issues associated with obtaining additional information and seek your help/advice as regards how I can best deal with them.

Some of the matters may, already, have been referred to but it would be helpful if I could review and consider them again.

Perhaps it would be beneficial if, once you have had an opportunity to consider the points, we met and discussed these matters.

1. Mrs RICHARDS was conveyed from the Royal Hospital Haslar to the Gosport War Memorial Hospital on Monday 17th August 1998. It has been reported that she was transported by a 'Mainline' Ambulance Crew. It was further reported that 'Haslar' arranged this transport and telephoned 'Daedalus' to inform them that a canvas (with two poles inserted) could not be found to put Mrs RICHARDS on. Instead, it was reported, two sheets were used to lift the patient who began crying and screaming in the ambulance and continued for some time after her arrival at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. Having regard to this patient's condition,



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and the fact that the method of carriage may have aggravated her condition, can you please advise me.

- (a) **Were any reports regarding this incident prepared by any employee of the Portsmouth Health Care (NHS) Trust?**

I am, of course, aware of the Report which was prepared by S.M. HUTCHINGS after Mrs LACK's letter of complaint and prior to Mr MILLETT's letter in reply which was dated the 22nd September 1998.

- (b) **Were the circumstances formally drawn to the attention of the Royal Hospital Haslar?**
- (c) **What is a 'Mainline' Ambulance and who is responsible for this service and the staff?**
- (d) **Does the Portsmouth Health Care (NHS) Trust have rules or guidelines which deal with the carriage and transportation of a patient in Mrs RICHARDS condition?**
- (e) **Would it have been appropriate to carry a patient in Mrs RICHARDS' condition in the manner which was apparently employed?**
- (f) **Are you aware of any disciplinary action following this incident?**

Presumably, if any such disciplinary action had been taken, evidence would have been required from staff at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

2. You have advised me that medical care is provided for patients at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital on a 'visiting' or 'on call' basis.

- (a) **Whilst Mrs RICHARDS was admitted to the Gosport War Memorial Hospital were there any medical staff, apart from Dr BARTON, with responsibility for her care?**
- (b) **Could you please provide me with details of the 'on call' Rota in force during the time that Mrs RICHARDS was admitted to the Gosport War Memorial Hospital?**
- (c) **Having regard to the content of Dr LORD's Report, can you please tell me who was providing Consultant cover, for the Gosport War Memorial Hospital, during the period that Mrs RICHARDS was admitted?**



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- (d) Can you please provide me with details of the contractual arrangements which govern the employment of medical staff at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital?
- (e) Could you tell me if there is was a policy in place, during the time that Mrs RICHARDS was admitted to the Gosport War Memorial Hospital, which dealt with the circumstances in which a patient could be referred to the Royal Hospital Haslar after 'office hours'?
3. A Syringe Driver was used in Mrs RICHARDS case.
- (a) Can you tell me how often Syringe Drivers are used at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital?
- (b) Can you comment on the level of skill of the Nursing Staff, responsible for Mrs RICHARDS care whilst she was admitted to the Gosport War Memorial Hospital, in monitoring Syringe Drivers in the absence of the Clinical Assistant?
- (c) What was the nature and dose of the drug administered in the Syringe Driver?
- (d) Who checked the dose of the drug being administered by the Syringe Driver?
4. In terms of other complaints about the clinical management of patients at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital by Clinical Assistants.
- (a) Have any such complaints been made?
- and, if so,
- (b) What was the nature of these complaints?
- (c) Have any other complaints been made about the terminal care of elderly people, generally, at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital?
- and, if so,
- (d) What was the nature of these complaints?



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I appreciate that this will cause you some extra work and I fear that I may, as time goes on, require yet more information.

I appreciate your support.

Yours sincerely,

Ray Burt
Detective Chief Inspector