

certificate was signed, giving the cause of death as bronchopneumonia. The Coroner's Officer was satisfied that no further investigation was required;

6.3. In conclusion, Dr Barton states the following:

*"At no time was any active treatment of Mrs Richards conducted with the aim of hastening her demise. My primary and only purpose in administering the Diamorphine was to relieve the pain which Mrs Richards was suffering. Diamorphine can in some circumstances have an incidental effect of hastening a demise but in this case I do not believe that it was causing respiratory depression and was given throughout at a relatively moderate dose."*

*"Similarly it was not my intention to hasten Mrs Richards' death by omitting to provide treatment for example in the form of intravenous or subcutaneous fluids. By the 18<sup>th</sup> August it was clear to me that Mrs Richards was likely to die shortly. I believed that transfer to another hospital where she would be in a position to receive intravenous fluids was not in her best interests as it would have been too much of a strain and brought about a premature demise. There is clear evidence that the administration of intravenous or subcutaneous fluids would not have prolonged her life and faced with the complications which could arise such intervention was not in her best interests."*

*"I explained the position to Mrs Richards' daughters, they did not appear to demur at the time and indeed at no time requested a second opinion."*