



**SPECIAL CRIME
DIVISION**

6 JUN 2006

Hampshire Constabulary
Major Incident Room
Fareham Police Station
Quay Street
Fareham
Hampshire
PO 16 ONA

Code A

7th June 2006.

Code A

Crown Prosecution Service
Casework Directorate
50 Ludgate Hill
LONDON
EC4M 7EX.

Dear Code A

Re Operation ROCHESTER. An investigation into deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

May I inform you that following our meeting with Counsel on the 28th September 2005 the investigation has continued into the circumstances of death of 92 patients at Gosport War memorial Hospital between 1988 and 2000.

The principal clinical assistant involved in delivering the care to these patients Dr Jane BARTON was further interviewed under criminal caution between March and May 2006 in respect of nine of the ten cases remaining under criminal investigation. Essentially she has made no comment to questions posed other than to rely on previously prepared statements.

I would urge reviewing counsel to closely consider the interviews as they highlight the micro-detail of this case in terms of the alleged widespread failure of duty of care and poor clinical practice.

Given the comments of experts in respect of the case of Arthur CUNNINGHAM there is insufficient evidence to justify further interview of Dr

BARTON in terms of criminal negligence although the investigation remains open until the prosecution considerations of CPS in respect of the remaining cases has been decided.

Please find attached an SIO summary of the relevant medical evidence in respect of the ten cases.

The final papers will be delivered to CPS this month in respect of all cases which should enable a decision to be made in terms of the prosecution test.

Interviews under criminal caution will be conducted during June 2006 of a consultant Dr REID and a nurse HAMBLIN in respect of alleged negligent patient care. Separate files of evidence will be forwarded to the CPS regarding these cases.

For your information the investigation management team consists of myself, Detective Inspector GROCOTT and Detective Sergeant STEPHENSON all of whom are based at the major incident room Fareham Police Station.

Assistant Chief Constable Steve WATTS would like to attend the next meeting with CPS and counsel to discuss the investigation outcome, preferred dates are:-

Friday 30th June 2006.
Tuesday 25th July 2006.
Friday 28th July 2006.

Yours Sincerely

Code A

David WILLIAMS
Detective Superintendent.