

EMBARGOED 11.00 20 SEPTEMBER 2002

Date: 20 September 2002

PERSONAL STATEMENT

**Gosport War Memorial Hospital:
temporary redeployment of PCT chief executives**

Whilst we are naturally anxious about having any time away from our respective PCTs when there is so much to do, we understand why it was felt necessary for us to be asked to undertake temporary duties elsewhere pending the review of management decisions.

We recognise that this review must command the trust of local people. It must be scrupulously independent and free of any accusation that we are in a position to influence it.

Similarly, we have had, at different times, direct involvement with both the families and staff concerned and we recognise that this means we may not be able to remain sufficiently detached from this matter or focussed on the full range of health issues that need to be addressed locally whilst this review takes place.

We are confident that investigations will be conducted in an open, thorough and timely manner. It is the way we are used to doing things in our organisations and our staff and those who work with them, will expect nothing less.

Finally, we hope that these investigations, including the clinical audit to be carried out by Professor Richard Baker, answer all of the remaining issues and questions that the families and staff have raised. They all deserve answers and the chance to move forward.

We do not wish to comment further on this matter until the investigation has been completed.

Tony Horne
Chief Executive
East Hampshire Primary Care Trust

Ian Piper
Chief Executive
Fareham & Gosport Primary Care Trust

[ends]

For further information please contact Hampshire and Isle of Wight Health Authority (telephone 023 8072 5419).