

Operation ROCHESTER

Family Group Members Investigation Update Bulletin No. 2 dated 7th July 2003

Investigation Team

The Operation Rochester Investigation Team has relocated to Park Gate Police Station. Address and our contact details are as follows:-

Operation Rochester
Park Gate Police Station
64 Bridge Road
Park Gate
Hampshire
SO31 7HN

Direct dial telephone numbers:- and

Fax:-

Whenever the office is unoccupied an answer phone service will be in use.

Clinical Team

On Saturday 14th June 2003, the Investigation Team met with the Clinical Team, as mentioned in the bulletin of 30th April 2003. The Clinical Team had completed reviewing the second set of twenty patient records. As before, we are satisfied that the process is working as expected. Our next meeting with the Clinical Team is scheduled for the weekend of 6th and 7th September 2003, by which time we anticipate that the Clinical Team will have conducted their initial analysis of all of the 62 sets of patient records.

Proposed Family Group Meeting

In my letter to you of 8th May, which accompanied the last bulletin, I made mention of a proposed family group meeting to be held in the Autumn. I can confirm that the date of this meeting is Thursday 11th September 2003, and it will be held at the Southern Support Police HQ at Netley. These premises can be found a short distance off junction 8 of the M27. (For reference, this is the very next junction down from the meetings previously held at The Solent Hotel, Whiteley, off junction 9).

This meeting is intended to provide a general update as to our investigation and seek to indicate its future direction. Another important reason for the meeting is to allow you all an opportunity to ask questions of the team. Although the meeting will be held shortly after the Clinical Team have finished their initial review of the 62 sets of patient records, I would like to emphasise that we will not be revealing any information about any specific cases.

Attached to this bulletin is a booking form. I would be grateful if you could fill it in and return it as soon as possible. A freepost addressed envelope has been enclosed for this purpose. Capacity is limited therefore consequently attendance will regretfully be limited to two people per patient. For those who cannot travel independently, we will consider arranging transport from Gosport. Out of necessity, this will be on a very restricted basis.

A light buffet will also be provided.

Other Enquiries

The Investigation Team are continuing their enquiries to trace, interview and take statements from all medical and nursing staff who have worked at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital since 1988. As I indicated within the last bulletin, this is a massive undertaking but we are making steady progress and we are currently on track.

Media Interest

This enquiry continues to attract a great deal of media interest. Our policy has been, and remains, that we will not speak with the media except to pursue our investigation. You may have seen an article in the Sunday Times recently which made reference to a 'Police source' confirming some fact or other. I can tell you that no such source exists. Indeed, I took this point up with a Sunday Times Lawyer who indicated that the phrase was probably added by the editorial desk to give the article some currency. In respect of this issue - I think the point has been well made previously by Ann Alexander - this is a major investigation and every effort should be taken to avoid any form of potential compromise. I am therefore all the more grateful for your continued thoughtfulness and discretion.

Conclusion

As I indicated in our last bulletin, this is not intended to replace the other existing means of communication. As before, I would invite you to raise any query you have via Detective Constable **Code A** and, for her clients, via Ann Alexander.

With regards and best wishes

Nigel Niven
Detective Inspector
Major Crime Department