



HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY

Paul R. Kernaghan QPM LL.B MA DPM MIPD
Chief Constable

Western Area Headquarters
12-18 Hulse Road
Southampton
Hampshire
SO15 2JX

Our Ref. Operation Rochester

Tel. 0845 04554545
Fax. 023 80599838

Mrs L Richards

Code A

04 November 2003

Dear Mrs Richards

•Re: Operation Rochester – Bulletin No.3

Please find attached the third bulletin regarding Operation Rochester. The feedback in respect of the first and second bulletin was encouraging and I think this is a good method in which to keep you all updated.

If I, or any member of my team, can provide any further assistance, please do not hesitate to make contact

Yours sincerely

Code A

Nigel Niven
Detective Inspector
Operation Rochester.

Operation ROCHESTER

Family Group Members Investigation Update Bulletin No. 3 dated 2nd November 2003

Family Group Meeting 11th September 2003.

The Family Group meeting took place at Netley as per our last bulletin. In the main the feedback was positive. It is possible that we will hold another similar meeting again although not in the immediate future. Any intended meeting will be mentioned in good time in later bulletins.

Investigation Team

I announced at the Family Group Meeting that Detective Constable [Code A] is now our Family Liaison Officer. DC [Code A] will be contacting all of you in the near future in order to personally introduce herself. Additionally, she will discuss with you three particular subjects.

Clinical Team Findings – At the meeting in September, Detective Chief Superintendent Watts mentioned that consideration will be given as to the most appropriate method of informing you of the Clinical Team findings. We feel that it is vitally important to include your views in this process. I will be writing to you in due course with some suggested options for how we can best do this. In the first instance, however, DC [Code A] will discuss the subject with you in person. Please feel free to inform her of any early thoughts you have on how this can best be achieved.

Identified concerns - At the beginning of our investigation many of you identified to members of my team what your specific concerns were in respect of the treatment your relatives received at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. DC [Code A] has been specifically asked to discuss this matter with you during her visit. So far the analysis by the Clinical Team has focused upon the information contained within the patient records. Before any decisions are made in respect of any case, account will need to be taken of the information and concerns provided by yourselves. We therefore want to ensure that we have a comprehensive and up-to-date record of your concerns. This information will then be taken into account within the decision making process.

Copy patient records - We are aware that some of you have based some of your concerns upon copies of your relatives patient records you have obtained from the hospital authorities. Not all of you have had sight of these records. We believe that you should all have this opportunity. That way, we feel, you will be able to give the fullest consideration to the above matter in respect of identifying your current concerns. To that end, we are arranging to provide you with a copy of your patient records. We fully understand that for some this process will be too distressing and that you will not want sight of your relatives patient records. Consequently, I have enclosed a reply note with this bulletin giving you a choice. I would be grateful if you could endorse this reply note as to whether or not you wish to receive a copy of your relatives patient records. Also enclosed is a Free Post envelope. Please give this

matter some consideration and send your reply back in the envelope provided. As you would expect, providing such records is a costly affair. Consequently, I only intend to provide one set of patient records per relatives family. I would therefore be grateful if you could also indicate on the above mentioned reply slip which family member should be sent the patient records on behalf of the family. If there is a reason why you feel more than one copy should be provided please indicate why in the 'Comments' box on the reply slip. (Please note that the postage has been prepaid and no stamp is needed)

Victim Support

Some of you may recall that at the Family Group Meeting on 5th February at the Solent Hotel, we arranged for members of Victim Support Services to be present. Some of you spoke to them and some were given leaflets. We now feel that it is appropriate to remind you that the Victim Support Services are available to you and we encourage you to consider their use. We have arranged for Judith Cousins of the Gosport VSS to act as a central contact point and she can be contacted on Code A.
Code A Alternatively you can ring the Hampshire VSS HQ at Eastleigh on Code A.
Code A I have enclosed a VSS leaflet which outlines the services they provide which you may find interesting.

Conclusion

The work of the investigation and clinical team is ongoing. Please be assured that the consultative process we have engaged with you is not in any way delaying the core investigation. The work of gathering and analysing information continues. It has always been our goal, however, to work with you, the relatives. We are committed to involving you in the process wherever appropriate and shall continue to keep you up to date of developments. We shall continue to liase with Alexander Harris who represents some of you. Indeed, a number of the above subjects arose out of a meeting held with Ann Alexander in Southampton on the 30th September 2003.

Lastly, I would like to raise an issue in respect of the media. Notwithstanding what I have just indicted above, what we do share with you is intended to be confidential. Both Ann Alexander and I have previously explained the impact reporting could have on the outcome of our investigation. We ourselves have a strict policy in respect of the media and this investigation. I would like to take this opportunity to convey my thanks for the discretion exercised thus far. Clearly, our ability to share information with you will depend on that information being treated in confidence.

In the event of any query, please do not hesitate to contact us at our incident room at Park gate police station.

Nigel Niven
Detective Inspector
Major Crime Department