

IN Person

Hepshire Constab e
Scheitars Letters.

Mrs L Richards

Code A



HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY

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Your Ref.

11th February 2004

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Dear Mrs Richards

Re: Operation Rochester: Expert Review

Gladys Richards

I write further to my letter of 2nd February 2004, where we notified you of our intention to inform you of the category to which we have assigned the case of your mother, Gladys Richards. The work required to reach this decision has now been completed by our team of experts and I am writing to notify you of their findings.

In providing you with this information, may I also take this opportunity to remind you of the advice given to you by the Operation Rochester team and Alexander Harris, Solicitors regarding the prejudicial impact that media reporting may have on the investigation and on any subsequent Court proceedings.

During the review, the team of experts examined the records both individually and together at a multidisciplinary team meeting where they had an opportunity to discuss their conclusions. Following this meeting the experts have not been able to confirm to our satisfaction that the actions of the nursing and medical staff did not contribute in any way to the deterioration of Gladys Richards.

We therefore believe that further work will be necessary before we are able to conclude whether there is evidence of unlawful activity in this case. I am sorry to have to inform you of this news and the uncertainty that it may cause. I should stress that it may still be the case that no evidence of a criminal nature will be uncovered; for the moment we will need to undertake further work before coming to any firm conclusions.

Finally, may I take the opportunity of thanking you for your ongoing co-operation and assistance with this difficult inquiry. If you have any questions arising from this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Code A

Nigel Niven
Deputy Senior Investigating Officer