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PO13 OFH

Ms Lesley Richards

Code A

Our Ref: LD/ld

4th July 02

Dear Ms Circlards

Re: CHI Report into the Gosport War Memorial Hospital

A number of people who attended the press conference this morning have told me that they did not receive a copy of our press pack.

I am therefore taking the liberty of sending you a copy of the pack which contains all the statements that Ian Piper and I made today.

I hope you will feel from reading these statements that we do genuinely acknowledge your concerns over the treatment your mother received and that you were right to complain.

At the press conference, many of you expressed to me the thought that we did not emphasise enough the fact that there were very genuine issues of concern over care at the hospital in 1998. I hope that you feel that these press releases and statements do fully reflect the fact that we acknowledge this to be the case and that we are deeply sorry for the impact that this has had upon the families concerned.

I know that Ian will be writing to you in the next fortnight to ask if you have any further queries or concerns about the content of the report itself and to discuss whether you would wish to be involved in the action plan process.

We hope you will feel able to work with us to whatever extent you wish, on taking the CHI recommendations forward.

Tous Smorely,

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