

David C. Horsley LLB  
Her Majesty's Coroner  
for Portsmouth and  
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Blake Laphorn  
FAO: Mr J. White  
New Kings Court  
Tollgate  
Chandler's Ford  
Eastleigh SO53 3LG

13<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Dear Mr White,

**Inquest - Gladys Mabel Richards:**

I refer to recent exchanges of written and email correspondence involving yourself; Mrs MacKenzie, legal representatives of other interested persons and myself.

As I have previously made clear, Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights is not engaged in respect of Mrs Richards' death. For this reason, my verdict at the end of the Inquest must be limited to expressing my conclusion upon how she died but not upon the circumstances in which she died.

As I have also made clear, the core issue for the Inquest is whether the medication she was prescribed and administered during her stays in Gosport War Memorial Hospital caused or contributed in a more than insignificant way to Mrs Richard's death when it occurred on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1998.

Mrs Richards' detailed medical records have been examined in depth by Professor Black and, I assume, by Professor Ferner and their conclusions drawn from them are set out in the respective reports they are to present to me at the Inquest. Consequently, I do not consider that a lengthy dissection of those records during the examination of the other witnesses - as the correspondence from you your client seems to advocate - will assist me in a meaningful way in reaching a verdict under the above parameters.

Questioning of the witnesses on what was prescribed/administered to Mrs Richards, and when and why, can be adequately put and answered without complex reference to medical records and this is the way I shall conduct the Inquest. I do not consider that issues of when those records were compiled and by who need to be explored in any great depth to assist me with the task I have to perform and therefore I will not be permitting that to take place.

I have long feared that your client may not fully understand the parameters I have to set for this Inquest and the form it will take - nor the verdict I am able to return. Please ensure she is fully and realistically appraised of these issues.

Please note that I have copied this letter to all other interested persons.

Yours faithfully,

**Code A**

David C Horsley

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