



Strictly Private & Confidential

Mrs Lesley O'Brien

Code A

Our ref: TET/GML/00492-15579/7743228 v1
Your ref:

Tamsin Hall
Assistant Solicitor
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25 June 2008

Dear Mrs O'Brien

General Medical Council - Dr Jane Barton

I write further to our previous correspondence to update you on the current position of the GMC Fitness to Practise investigation.

You may be aware that recently the Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Coroner has announced his intention to open Inquests into the deaths of ten people who died at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

After careful consideration, and upon the receipt of legal advice, the GMC has decided to postpone the Fitness to Practise Panel Hearing regarding Dr Jane Barton until the Inquest has been held into the deaths of the ten patients at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. Eight of these patients were amongst those due to be considered at the Fitness to Practise Panel Hearing. The GMC has taken legal advice and has decided that on balance it is preferable to await the outcome of the Inquest. The outcome of the Inquest could give rise to further fitness to practise allegations or could lead to the GMC revising the charges that they are proposing to bring and so could be highly relevant to the GMC proceedings. Given the Inquest primacy will also allow Dr Barton to deal with that inquiry and evidence for that process, ahead of her having to finalise her response to the Fitness to Practise Panel.

The GMC Fitness to Practise Hearing will be relisted once we have been informed by the Coroner of the date of the Inquest. At present I do not know when this will be, but will of course keep you fully informed.

In the meantime I am continuing with my preparation for the Hearing, which includes finalising any outstanding witness evidence. This will ensure that once I have further information from the Coroner the GMC will be ready to re-list the Hearing without any further delays.

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I appreciate that you may be disappointed by this news but hope that you understand the reasons above. If you would like to discuss this matter then please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Sarah Ellson.

The Coroner may contact you directly regarding the Inquest. Any queries regarding the Inquest should be directed to him. For your information his details are:

Mr Horsley
Her Majesty's Coroner for Portsmouth and East Hampshire
Coroner's Office
Room T20
The Guildhall
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
PO1 2AJ

May I take this opportunity to thank you again for your ongoing assistance. My colleagues and I appreciate your co-operation.

Yours sincerely

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Tamsin Hall
for **Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP**