



**Alexander
Harris**
solicitors

Mrs Richards

Code A

Our ref: CLA/CLA/31243/1/9516
Your ref:
Please ask for: **CLAIRE AMOS**
Direct dial: **Code A**

BY FIRST CLASS POST

22 October 2002

Dear Mrs Richards

Gosport War Memorial Hospital Statement

As promised, I now enclose your draft witness statement.

May I remind you that this statement is primarily to aid us in our decision making process as to which course of action to take. It is an internal document only, and will not be disclosed to any party without your express permission. I understand that you may have given my assistants much more information than is included in this statement, however this has all been noted on your file.

Please read through the statement thoroughly, and feel free to make any amendments or additions. If there is a query in bold type, we would be grateful for further detail. If you have any queries at all, please do not hesitate to contact **Code A** on **Code A** or **Code A** on **Code A**

Once you are happy with the statement, please sign, date and return to us as soon as possible, marked for the attention of **Code A**.

Yours sincerely

Code A

**ANN ALEXANDER
ALEXANDER HARRIS**

Code A

Alexander Harris, Ashley House, Ashley Road, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 2DW Telephone: +44(0)161 925 5555 Facsimile: +44(0)161 925 5500
DX 19866 Altrincham 1. E-mail: info@alexanderharris.co.uk Web Site: www.alexanderharris.co.uk

Also at: 1 Dyers Buildings, London EC1N 2JT United Kingdom Telephone: +44(0)20 7430 5555 Facsimile: +44(0)20 7430 5500 DX 460 London Chancery Lane.
Cheriton House, 51 Station Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 3RT Telephone: +44(0)121 711 5111 Facsimile: +44(0)121 711 5100 DX 720080 Solihull.

Partners: David N Harris LL.B, Ann Alexander LL.B (Hons) M.B.A (Managing Partner), Lesley Herbertson M.A (Cantab), Nicola Castle LL.B (Hons) LLM, Richard Follis LL.B (Hons), Jenny Kennedy, Lindsay Wise B.A (Hons), Grainne Barton LL.B (Hons), Richard Barr, Christian Beadell LL.B (Hons), Auriana Griffiths LL.B (Hons)

Consultant: Prof. Daniel S Simons B.A (Hons) J.D (Member of the Florida Bar)

Associates: Yee Fon Sit LL.B (Hons), Douglas I. Silas LL.B (Hons), Susannah Read LL.B (Hons), Tim Annett LL.B (Hons), Kim Barrett B.A (Hons) LLM, Jonathan Betts LL.B (Hons), Jo Masters LL.B (Hons), *Sue Taylor, *Debbie Murphy RGN, RM, Dip N, *Kirsty R Richards, *Kirsten Limb B.Sc (Hons). *(not a practising solicitor)

Alexander Harris is a franchised firm and a member of the Community Legal Service
Regulated by The Law Society

PR

IN THE MATTER OF GOSPORT WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**STATEMENT OF LESLEY RICHARDS****PART ONE**

NAME: Ms Lesley Richards

DATE OF BIRTH: Code A

RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED: Daughter

NAME OF DECEASED: Mrs. Gladys Richards

LAST ADDRESS OF DECEASED: Glenheathers Nursing Home
Code A

DATE OF BIRTH OF DECEASED: Code A

DATE OF DEATH: 21/8/98

A: Formal Details

1. I am Lesley Frances Richards of Code A
and my date of birth is Code A I am the daughter of Mrs Gladys
Richards and I make this statement regarding the events surrounding
my mother's death in the Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

B: Admittance to Gosport

2. My mother was admitted to Gosport War Memorial Hospital on 11/8/98
by way of transfer from the Hasler Hospital. She was admitted for
rehabilitation following an operation at the Hasler to treat a broken hip.
She had been recovering well.
3. My mother was admitted to the Daedalus ward.

PR

C: Immediate action after death

4. My mother's death was not referred to a Coroner, nor was there a post mortem.
5. I did express my concern about the cause of death on my mother's death certificate, but I did not take this further as I could not contemplate my mother being subjected to a post mortem.

D: Chronology of Complaints

6. I was immediately concerned about the treatment my mother was receiving at the Gosport Hospital. I attended the hospital the day after she was admitted and my mother was unconscious. I knew that she had been given something and I asked what it was, I was told oramorph, which is oral morphine. I made it very clear to the staff on duty that I was not happy about this. **[Do you remember any of the names of the staff who were there at the time?]**
7. I then complained in writing to the Health Authority, in a letter dated 17/8/98, whilst my mother was still alive. This letter was acknowledged in a letter dated 25/8/98. Before I received this letter I was visited on the ward, whilst my mother was still alive, by Lesley Humphries, the quality manager. I did not speak to her at this time.
8. I received a full response to my complaint from Max Millet, the Chief Executive, in a letter dated 22/9/98. I was not happy with the contents

PR

of this letter and I therefore requested a meeting. I cannot remember the exact date of this meeting, but I attended with my sister Gillian McKenzie.

9. Following this meeting we contacted the police in person, as we were not satisfied with Mr Millet's explanation. Gillian and I attended the Gosport police station together and were seen by DC Code A. He told us not to contact the Health Authority any more, as they would now deal with it. No statement was taken at that time.
10. I did give a witness statement to the police in 1999, when Ray Birt was dealing with the investigation.
11. I have not made any complaint to the GMC or to the police relating to their initial investigation. My sister has done regarding my mother's death.

E: Main Concerns

12. I want someone to be answerable for what has happened. My mother did not have a natural death, which she was entitled to. It is horrendous what has been going on. Someone should stand up and say that they were wrong.
13. The CHI report was good, but there was a lot missing from it and there should be more investigation into what went wrong.

PR

F: Further Potential Witnesses

- 14. My sister, Gillian McKenzie, is a witness to the above events.

I believe that the facts in this statement are true.

Signed

Ms Lesley Richards

Dated