

Against: JAMES

POLICE COMPLAINT – STATEMENT (DRAFT)

I am Bernard Frederick Page, DOB [Code A] residing at [Code A]
[Code A]

This is a formal statement as regards a complaint I have regarding the police investigation carried out as regards the circumstances of the death of my mother at The Gosport War Memorial Hospital (GWMH), Gosport, in March 1998.

My mother, Mrs. Eva Isabel Page was admitted to Queen Alexandra Hospital (QAH), Cosham, Portsmouth on 6th February 1998. She was discharged and transferred to GWMH on 27th February 1998, and subsequently died at 1930 on the evening of the 3rd March 1998.

Following media coverage in The Portsmouth News on Saturday 7th April 2001, I raised concern regarding the treatment my mother had received whilst under the care of the medical and nursing staff of GWMH.

I discussed further my concerns with my wife and eldest daughter who were involved in visiting and the discussions with staff whilst my mother was in QAH and GWMH. After discussing our personal recollections it became clear there were areas, which were a concern to us.

On Monday 9th April 2001 I contacted by phone Sgt [Code A] who I understood to be a member of the investigation team investigating deaths at GWMH. He requested I write to him detailing my areas of concern and promised that the death of my mother would be investigated.

The letter (ANNEX A) dated 9th April 2001 was a true recollection of events as we remembered them. The letter was signed by my wife (Marguerite Page) and my eldest daughter (Samantha Page). The letter was delivered by hand by myself to Kingston Police Station at 1900 on Tuesday 10th April 2001.

On the morning of Wednesday 11th April 2001, Det. Sgt. Code A rang me at work, and confirmed receipt of my letter and again promised that the events of my mother's death would be investigated.

I believed that this letter (signed statement) would constitute a formal complaint concerning the treatment of my mother.

I heard nothing from the police enquiry team.

On 21st November 2001 I had a meeting with an Inquiry team from The Commission for Health Improvement (CHI). At this meeting I put in writing to them my concerns, a letter is attached as Annex B. In this letter I state the following "It was not until other cases similar to my mother's were reported in the press that I made an official police complaint concerning the treatment of my mother."

On the 13th February 2002 I received a letter from Hampshire Constabulary, signed by Detective Superintendent J. James. (Enclosed as Annex C). This was the first communication I have had with any of the police investigation team.

The letter quotes "enquiries" rather than an investigation as I was told it would be. It also states that no further action would be taken. Mr. James offered me the opportunity with other concerned relatives to attend a meeting to explain his position.

On Friday 22nd February 2002 I attended Fratton Police Station and listened to Mr. James explain his own personal reasons as to why no further action would be taken on the death of my mother or any other patient.

He stated that he had commissioned two medical expert reports, and that they were critical of the treatment these patients received. Mr. James at this meeting stated that he would release these reports to the relatives of those patients who had been reported on. He also stated that he would write to us, after his holiday, confirming the format and correct wording for our letters to enable him to release these reports to him.

It was at the end of this meeting that I was informed for the first time that my mother was one of four deaths reported on by the these medical experts.

On the 27th February 2002 I received a letter from Mr. James. The letter I found confusing and not clear as regards obtaining these medical reports. I therefore asked a solicitor to translate the content of this letter who advised that the police would not release these documents without a court order, and would then oppose their release.

I was unable to contact Mr. James by phone.

On the 26th March 2002 I obtained my mother's medical notes from Portsmouth Hospital Trust.

After examining her notes and getting an independent medical professional opinion, I found several areas of grave concern. Some of the areas include:

1. The cause of death stated on the Death Certificate, was not indicated in my mother's medical notes.
2. My mother's normal daily medication was suddenly stopped without reason and opiates commenced until her death.
3. Opiates, including Diamorphine used when the notes clearly states she was not in pain.
4. The dispensing of certain drugs that was not only contra-indicated but should only have been used specifically by a Consultant Specialist under supervision.

It became aware to me that the police did not conduct a thorough investigation into my mother's notes. Important notations in her notes would require me (the Next of Kin) to either confirm or deny their accuracy.

There is one notation in her notes that if true would indicate an intent to kill. This should have been noted by any police investigation and investigated further.

No attempt was ever made to contact my wife, my daughter or myself in order to obtain an official statement or confirmation on my initial complaint.

No attempt was ever made to contact my wife, my daughter or myself in order to confirm what I believe to be important facts in my letter relating to my mother and which are of a similar nature to the other hospital deaths.

No contact was ever made with me to explain the process, or direction that the so-called investigation was taking until well after the final decision was made.

I have, as other concerned parties been lead to believe that a full police investigation has taken place in respect of the deaths of these patients, my mother included. This has not been the case.

I deem it disgraceful that Mr. James's promise of release of the medical reports relating to my mother's death was never forthcoming. The failure of the police to release them to me, (the Next of Kin) is made worse as every nurse, doctor and Health Authority responsible for the care and well being of my mother has access to them.