

Code A

From: MSCS [Code A]

To: [Code A]

Date: Tue, 12 Nov 2013 14:46:24 +0000

Subject: Gosport War Memorial Hospital

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Dear Mr Page,

I'm writing in relation to events at Gosport War Memorial Hospital (GWMH). I know you lost a loved one at the hospital and I hope receiving this message does not cause you distress. My reason for writing is to make you aware of some steps that I am taking with regard to GWMH, as I want to ensure that your views are heard and that you are involved, if you wish to be.

You may be aware that earlier this year we were able to make public Professor Baker's report into the deaths at GWMH – after, I know, many years of waiting for families and others – as the legal proceedings around the deaths considered in the review had been completed.

Since the release of the report, I have been speaking with a number of families who have approached me about GWMH. Those I have spoken with have made very clear that, for them, the various investigations and other processes that have been conducted have been both distressing and unsatisfactory.

I have therefore been looking into various options for getting the information on what happened at GWMH out in the open, making it possible for people to be held to account and, hopefully, helping families and other affected parties to get a sense of closure.

One option is to set up a panel investigation, along the lines of the Hillsborough Independent Panel which investigated the Hillsborough disaster. I recently met with Bishop James Jones, formerly the Bishop of Liverpool, who chaired the Hillsborough Independent Panel. He described what they did there and how their experience might help us.

The Bishop has suggested that it might be helpful for him to come down to Gosport to meet – without me – with family members and other interested parties. This would enable families to discuss with him the pros and cons of the approach taken by the Hillsborough Independent Panel, how that method of investigation worked and whether this is a route you would like us to go down for GWMH.

The Bishop will come to Gosport on **21st November**, if you and others would like to meet with him. Would you be able to reply to [Code A] dh.gsi.gov.uk to let us know if you would like to be part of that meeting?

If you would like to have a meeting but that date isn't possible for you, please let me know and we will look at alternatives.

It is of course entirely your decision whether you want to be involved in this meeting or any further activity in relation to events at GWMH, and I completely understand if you would prefer not to. If you don't wish to be actively involved but would like to be kept informed, or if in fact you would prefer not to be contacted again at all about this, please just let me know.

With best regards,

Norman Lamb

Minister of State for Care and Support