



Media Information

Reference: 2003/003

EMBARGOED UNTIL 1200 NOON ON MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY

Update on Gosport War Memorial Hospital

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority has received advice from Hampshire Constabulary that the continuation of NHS investigations into inpatient care and treatment in the past at Gosport War Memorial Hospital could potentially compromise the ongoing police investigation.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority, along with the East Hampshire Primary Care Trust and Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust, has carefully considered the implications of this advice. It has therefore been agreed that NHS investigations will be put on hold pending the completion of the police investigation. Given the indefinite suspension of the NHS investigations, Ian Piper and Tony Horne will resume their normal duties as Chief Executives of the Primary Care Trusts.

The NHS will continue to support the police with their ongoing investigation.

The Strategic Health Authority and local Primary Care Trusts are committed to ensuring the quality and safety of local NHS services. It is therefore important to note that whilst the CHI investigation, published last year, expressed concerns about inpatient services in the past it concluded that policies and procedures are in place to ensure safe standards of care at the hospital.

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Notes for Editors: Contact Information

- This press statement has been issued jointly by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority, Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust and East Hampshire Primary Care Trust.
- Press enquiries should be directed to a **Press Officer** at the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority on Code A