



HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY

Paul R. Kernaghan QPM LL.B MA DPM MIPD
Chief Constable

Police Headquarters
West Hill
Winchester
Hampshire
S022 5DB

Our Ref. Op Rochester

Your Ref.

Tel. **Code A**
Fax.

28th January 2004

Mrs M Bulbeck

Code A

Dear Mrs Bulbeck,

There have been reports in the media recently regarding the investigation being conducted into a number of patient deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. In particular, comment has been made in respect of the selection of Detective Chief Superintendent Steve Watts to attend the Strategic Command Course at Bramshill in Hampshire.

From the onset of this enquiry we have firmly held the view that we had to commit our best officers to this investigation. The selection of Detective Chief Superintendent Watts to attend the Strategic Command Course in furtherance of him holding higher command in the Service is evidence of this.

It would be wrong to suggest that Detective Chief Superintendent Watts' attendance on this course in some way indicates that the Constabulary is no longer dedicated to the investigation. Detective Chief Superintendent Watts is regarded as a national authority in respect of investigations such as this and the fact that he has chosen to remain in charge of the investigation is evidence of his commitment. An excellent and experienced team of officers are working on this case, the independent medical experts and advisors that we have engaged are of the highest standing, and the investigation is being conducted in accordance with national best practice.

Yours sincerely,

Code A

I.R. Readhead
Deputy Chief Constable