

Fareham and Gosport 
Primary Care Trust

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Mrs M Bullbeck

Code A

27th March 2003

Dear Mrs Bullbeck

I am writing in response to your letter addressed to the Chief Executive of the Strategic Health Authority. I received copies of the correspondence on the 25th March and apologise for the consequent delay in my reply.

I would wish to add only the following comments to what Mr Cruddace has already written. It is indeed true that Mr Piper and I met with you to hear your story and to try and understand the background to the concerns you had concerning your mother's treatment. It is also true that Mr Piper was new to the position he had taken up. He was appointed to the post of Chief Executive of the Primary Care Trust only a few months before we met with you. He had never had any direct responsibility for operational services at the hospital and was as anxious as I was to try and understand what the issues were. Whilst understanding your distress I must therefore refute your claim that Mr Piper was lying to you.

I have stated publicly that I have every faith in Mr Piper's integrity and have never had occasion to doubt this since he was appointed Chief Executive of the Primary Care Trust.

May I finish by adding my apology to that given by the Strategic Health Authority. One of the prime concerns of the Primary Care Trust is to ensure that where possible you are informed of key developments around the Gosport War Memorial Hospital in a timely fashion. Clearly in this instance you were not and I would like to apologise if you suffered any distress as a consequence.

Yours sincerely

Code A

Lucy Docherty.
Chair, Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust

Cc Gareth Cruddace. Chief Executive, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority