

## **INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE GOSPORT WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

### **NEWSLETTER**

Thank you to all those who have returned consent forms, indicating the strength of your support for investigations by particular agencies. The general consensus of opinion is, as we thought, that a criminal prosecution ranks highest in your priorities. Our intention, therefore, is to assist the police where possible with the criminal proceedings and thereafter give further considerations to the order of subsequent investigations.

#### ***Criminal Prosecution***

A meeting took place recently between Hampshire police and the CPS and we have now been informed that the criminal investigation is proceeding. The police intend to draw together a team of experts to examine all future material. This will include experts in Palliative care, Geriatric care and Toxicology. They also intend to liaise with Professor Baker. We do need to stress, however, that the preparation for any potential criminal prosecution is likely to take many months.

We should also like to make you aware that discussions between you and anyone else – in particular other families, potential witnesses and the press – may prejudice either the criminal investigation or any proceedings which are brought. We strongly suggest that any information you may give or receive is relayed only to ourselves or directly to the police.

Whilst there is some preparatory work we can do, the police must be allowed to investigate without hindrance. We enclose a letter that has been sent to us by the police to be distributed, which provides details of the new Family Contacts Officer for Operation Rochester.

**General Medical Council**

For those of you who have made complaints to the GMC, matters are now in hand. However, we wish to make it absolutely clear that GMC proceedings will rank second until the conclusion of any criminal prosecution. If anybody wishes to put forward a further or fresh complaint to the GMC, we would be more than happy to assist you in doing so. It is unlikely to progress far until the conclusion of the police investigation and prosecution process.

**Nursing and Midwifery Council**

Similarly, if anyone has a specific complaint which relates to a named nurse, we would be willing to discuss this with you further, with a view to helping you submit a formal complaint.

**Public Meeting**

We should like to arrange another meeting with families once we have further information with which to update you. We intend to hold this on the evening of **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2003**, again at the Solent Hotel, Fareham. We will provide you with further details when available.

**Contact Information**

If you have any queries or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Trisha Roe on  or Claire Amos on  Please note that our offices will be closed from the afternoon of 24<sup>th</sup> December until 8.30am on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2003.

May we take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

**Alexander Harris Solicitors**

**December 2002.**

**Code A**