



Strictly Private & Confidential

Mr Charles Farthing

Code A

Our ref: sle/sj1/00492-15579/7583553 v1

Your ref:

Sarah Ellison
Partner

Code A

30 May 2008

Dear Mr Farthing

General Medical Council - Dr Jane Barton

I write to update you on the current position with the GMC investigation and preparation for a Fitness to Practise panel hearing.

Unfortunately my colleague Tamsin Hall is currently absent on sick leave; I have taken responsibility for progressing the file in her absence. My apologies therefore if this correspondence repeats anything you have already been told.

The General Medical Council hearing is still due to take place later this year and is provisionally listed from 8 September 2008 for eight weeks.

Your stepfather's case was one of five originally referred by a Preliminary Proceedings Committee of the General Medical Council in 2002. It remains one of the cases we intend to focus on at the GMC hearing.

You are probably aware that the Hampshire Coroner has recently announced inquests into the deaths of ten patients at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. We have had no involvement with that decision but of course we are in contact with the Coroner, in particular to discuss whether and how his indication that the inquests will take place "not before the autumn of 2008" may affect our GMC listing. As soon as we have more information on this issue we will write to update you.

We are now at a stage where Dr Barton's legal team expect us to have completed our evidence gathering and disclosed this material to them. There are still a few outstanding matters but we have made good progress. Thank you for providing your statement.



If you require any further information at this stage please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Code A

Sarah Ellson
for **Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP**