

From the Chief Medical Officer, Sir Liam Donaldson



Our reference: **PO62/2007**

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Charles Stewart-Farthing

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Dear

Mr Stewart-Farthing,

Thank you for your letter of 16 February 2007 about your late stepfather Mr A D B Cunningham. I fully appreciate that the time it has taken to look into the circumstances surrounding Mr Cunningham's death must have added considerably to the natural distress that you, friends, and family would have suffered. Please accept my condolences for what must have been and continue to be a very unhappy state of affairs.

As you say, the Police, in consultation with the Crown Prosecution Service have recently concluded that they will not bring prosecutions against anyone at Gosport War Memorial Hospital following their investigations. I realise that after so long, this will be frustrating for you, but I have no say in that matter and the issue of any flaw you feel that took place in coming to that decision should be taken up with the Police and Crown Prosecution Service.

Professor Baker has reported on the clinical management of the Hospital at the time and is not continuing investigation. However, the General Medical Council (GMC) are now looking at the issues and they will be deciding what action to take as regards the behaviour of the relevant medical staff. I intend to await the outcome of their deliberations before deciding if there are any issues not covered by either the Police or the GMC.

Yours sincerely

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**SIR LIAM DONALDSON
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER**