

Code A

Code A

27 November 2008

Mark Hoban, MP
14 East Street
Fareham
PO16 0BN

GORPORT WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (GWMH)

Firstly, I am sorry I was not available when you telephoned on Monday and subsequently, after speaking to Susan Bayford, agreed to set out my concerns in this letter.

Since we met in January, when I raised issues about difficulties I was having in obtaining sight of expert medical reports relating to the demise of my step-father at the GWMH, you may be aware that the Coroner has announced that he would be conducting inquests into several of the victims deaths, including my step-father. These are scheduled for March 2009.

As a consequence, I recently received a bundle of papers from the Coroner that included police statements relating to my step-father's death, and these (indeed) include two of the expert reports I was seeking when I met with you in January. Others remain outstanding, and are being sought through the Coroner's office.

In recent correspondence between myself and the Coroner, it has become apparent that, in August, Karen Murray of Hampshire County Council, the Assistant Chief Constable of Hampshire, and the Coroner himself went in person to the Ministry of Justice in London and tried to persuade the government to hold a Public Enquiry into all 92 suspicious deaths at the GWMH at a face-to face meeting. This was turned down flat, and the Coroner has said there was nothing more he could do, resorting then to announcing the inquests. The Coroner also states that the CPS made the decision not to prosecute on the advice of leading Counsel, and has been refused sight of Counsel's advice on a number of occasions.

Clearly, there are very disturbing undertones in this case which, it would seem, might only be prised open by intervention at the political level, hence this letter to you in the hope you might be able to uncover the full reasons for the Department of Justice's non-cooperation.

I do hope you will be able to assist in this, and look forward with optimism that justice will eventually be done for the many families involved.

With kind regards,

Charles Stewart-Farthing

Copy to: Mr D Horsley, H M Coroner (Portsmouth)
Mr A Bradley, H M Coroner (Basingstoke)