

Code A*Note sent on 29/9 informing of
Brian's demise on 26/9.*

Tel:

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23 Sep 98

Inspector of Nursing Homes
 Finchdean House
 Milton Road
 Portsmouth
 PO16 8SF

FAO: J Tarrant

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re. BRIAN CUNNINGHAM

I refer to my telephone conversation this morning with Jackie Tarrant relating to the very unsatisfactory circumstances associated with my step-father, Brian Cunningham.

A broad outline of events is that he was admitted to the War Memorial Hospital in Gosport two days ago with chronic pressure sores after only about 3/4 weeks in Thalassa Nursing Home, Western Way, Alverstoke. This followed a period of some 3 weeks in the same hospital for assessment of his nursing needs, and resulted in an upgrading from residential to nursing care. I'm sorry I cannot be more precise about dates which is due to my absence abroad when he was moved from hospital to nursing home. Further details, however, should be forthcoming should you contact his social overseer, Mr Sean Golding, at Gosport Social Services Dept (01705-5867321).

Without naming individuals at this stage, I was given the very clear impression by the duty nursing staff whom admitted him that his condition was so serious it was unlikely he could survive - and how right that prediction seems to have been when now he is virtually incommunicado and living on serial morphine. In the opinion of a senior member of the nursing staff, he was so bad she firmly believed she would have been dismissed for allowing things to deteriorate to even 50% of what she saw, and thought he should have been admitted to hospital as much as 2 weeks before he was.

It goes without saying that things do not seem to be in order somewhere down the line of responsibility, and I would therefore ask that the matter be thoroughly investigated and reported upon.

I should perhaps mention that Mr Cunningham was severely disabled in the 39-45 war, and had poor mobility. Also, he has suffered progressively from Parkinson's Disease

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for the last 10-12 years. He had learnt to live with both conditions, and was reasonably healthy on 10 Sep which was the previous occasion my wife and I last saw him, although he mentioned to my wife then that he "had a sore behind" and that his GP was due to see him in a day or so.

I am sure you will hear that Mr Cunningham was never the easiest of people to please, I am well aware of that, and no doubt you will hear much about his unseemly behaviour. Whatever the facts, as I am sure you will agree, he most certainly did not deserve to be treated like this.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours faithfully,

Code A

C R S Farthing