



**Alexander
Harris**

solicitors

FIRST CLASS POST

Mr Farthing

Code A

18 December 2002

Dear Charles

Gosport War Memorial Hospital Investigation

Please find, enclosed, our Newsletter, which I hope will update you on the progress made in relation to investigations into the Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

As always, if you have any queries at all, please feel free to contact any member of our team.

May I wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely

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**ANN ALEXANDER
ALEXANDER HARRIS**

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Please note that this office will be closed from the afternoon of Tuesday 24 December 2002 until 8.30am on Thursday 2 January 2003.

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Alexander Harris is a franchised firm and a member of the Community Legal Service Regulated by The Law Society

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 5th 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 24th December until 8.30am on 2nd 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.



HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY

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10th December 2002

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to formally introduce myself as a Family Contacts Officer for Operation Rochester. Inspector Mark Wise who has now ceased this role may have contacted you in the past.

My role in this case will be to ensure that there are proper and effective lines of communication between Investigators, Relatives and other Authorities involved in this enquiry.

My hope is that I will be in a better position to answer any queries because I will be working full time as a Detective on this enquiry.

In order to facilitate this I have opened up an email account (address shown above) and a mobile telephone Code A. I will be available on this mobile number during normal office hours to answer questions or concerns of any of the relatives.

I am hoping to come and meet you personally in the near future to explain my role further. However if you have any questions prior to that then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Code A

Detective Constable 2512