

**Alexander Harris** solicitors



Our ref: AA/LS/31243/1/9516  
 Your ref:  
 Please ask for: ANN ALEXANDER  
 Direct dial: Code A

Mr Farthing

Code A

17 December 2003

Dear Charles

**Gosport War Memorial Hospital**

I write further in connection with the above matter in order to deal with a number of points which have been raised and to bring you up to date with the current position.

I realise that a number of you are still having difficulty with the approach being adopted by the officers in Operation Rochester. From an entirely personal point of view, I share a number of those concerns and whilst on your behalf I will continue to liaise with the police and ensure that your concerns are being properly expressed and, where possible, dealt with, I do believe that it is vitally important that you cooperate with the police investigation so that the matter can proceed as speedily as possible.

I confirm that we have now resolved the position with Field Fisher Waterhouse and the potential area of conflict. Field Fisher Waterhouse are continuing to act on behalf of the police in relation to the vetting of the expert reports but have confirmed that they will not be acting in relation to any prosecution of any medical professional which arises following this investigation. I am satisfied that this resolves the issue of conflict.

I have continued to press the police in relation to the issue of statements. I am very firmly of the view that they ought to be taking statements from all of the relevant witnesses. However I am told that at this stage statements are not being taken and I believe that at the present time there is little further I can do.

*Handling with care*

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I have been in touch with Deputy Chief Constable Readhead in relation to one or two specific matters and in the event that I have the opportunity of raising other issues with him I shall most certainly do this.

I understand from Nigel Niven that arrangements are being made for D C Kate Robinson to see all the families by the beginning of the New Year. As we are now well on the way towards that date, I do not know whether she is going to meet that deadline. I should appreciate it if any of you who have not yet heard from her and are concerned that a pre New Year meeting will not be possible, that you should contact Lisa Elkin at my office and let her know.

Yes

I remain of the view that it is vitally important that you should all have access to all of the medical records should you wish it and further that your instructions are taken on relevant points in those records in order that the experts can come to a fully detailed conclusion. Again it would assist if you could let me know whether Kate Robinson has arranged for you to see these records at your meeting and as to whether it is her intention to go through those documents with you. Whilst I appreciate that it may cause some of you distress to go through those records, I am concerned that the medical experts should have the best possible opportunity to reach accurate conclusions and it is of course entirely possible that recollections of your family members may not be entirely consistent with the medical notes and records themselves.

Yes

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No

I should appreciate hearing from you with your comments upon the matters raised in this letter and indeed any other points which you wish me to make on behalf of your family to the Operation Rochester Team.

I look forward to hearing from you and in the meantime would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely

**Code A**

Code A **ANN ALEXANDER  
PARTNER**

Code A

Please note that this office will be closed from the afternoon of 24 December 2003, re-opening at 8.30 am on 2 January 2004.