

Code A

46924698

**From:** Code A  
**Sent:** 19 July 2009 09:27  
**To:** Press Cuttings  
**Subject:** FW: Press cuttings Sunday 19 July 2009

2167

GMC mentions

The Independent on Sunday reports on the FTP hearing of Dr Jane Barton.

Other articles

A range of papers again cover the increasing danger of a swine flu pandemic.

The Independent asks 'could 65,000 really die?', the Sunday Telegraph reports that urgent advice is being issued to pregnant women and new parents to limit the spread amongst the most vulnerable, while the Sunday Times includes a piece questioning Britain's preparedness. The Sunday Express reports that doctors are casting doubt over the safety of the vaccine, and the Express and the Mail are also reporting that doctors are asking for extra security in hospitals to protect them from parents whose children are denied swine flu treatment.

There are also a plethora of stories about the deaths of Sir Edward Downs and his wife, who went to the Dignitas clinic in Switzerland to end their lives.

The News of the World and the Star report that the Chief Executive of Broadmoor has quit days before a damning report into the death of a patient.

The Observer report on a hospital investigation into the death of a baby boy who became dehydrated after being put on a saline drip.

A Christian doctor is being removed from a local authority's Adoption Panel because she refuses to recommend homosexual couples, reports the Independent.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** press@hello.com [mailto:press@hello.com]  
**Sent:** Sun 7/19/2009 9:06 AM  
**To:** Code A  
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<[http://www.muchmorethannews.co.uk/MoreThanNews3/images/mtn/en/logo\\_Report.gif](http://www.muchmorethannews.co.uk/MoreThanNews3/images/mtn/en/logo_Report.gif)>

Adhoc report Extracted from MorethanNews.com

Folder : Today's cuttings

Delivery date : 7/19/2009 to : 7/19/2009

Sector : All

Keywords :

Colleges & Regulators

Independent on Sunday  
 Delivery date : 7/19/2009  
 Number of words : 1587

## The guessing game

<<http://portal.morethannews.com/MiGlobalPdf/WebUI/Mtn.aspx?crypt=866ClGZfh%2fsMwLqia0RXLb91rnFzPoJGbVPw5altavYW5aB4rslyHEtAGcgmPlwd>>

Eight weeks after the first case of swine flu reached Britain, amid calls for calm, this was the week when it all got serious. Scores of schools have closed early for the summer holidays; the NHS is being swamped by new cases and children have started dying. The Government's Chief Medical Officer, Sir Liam Donaldson, told us that as many as 65,000 people could die from the H1N1 virus, but the truth is no one actually knows how the virus will mutate before it comes back for the second wave in the autumn.

Colleges & Regulators

## The Sunday Telegraph

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 673

Swine flu alert for pregnant women and babies

<<http://portal.morethannews.com/MiGlobalPdf/WebUI/Mtn.aspx?crypt=866ClGZfh%2fsMwLqia0RXLU5IlaOh2kF05a1H%2bViFGa0P9IJx5%2f%2fQCeLN4gLHj9n7>>

Urgent swine flu advice is to be issued to pregnant women and new parents today in an attempt to limit the spread of the virus among the most vulnerable. Expectant mothers will be urged to avoid unnecessary journeys and crowds, with experts suggesting that they do not travel on trains and the London Underground at peak times.

Colleges & Regulators

## The Sunday Times

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 2873

When Caitlin Brooker ended up in hospital

<<http://portal.morethannews.com/MiGlobalPdf/WebUI/Mtn.aspx?crypt=866ClGZfh%2fsMwLqia0RXLVvqk%2bF0%2fOPlfCIOTR4X76vR52H%2f%2fJzWflaek%2fhEdi>>

A feature article regarding Britain's preparedness for a swine flu pandemic.

Doctors

## Sunday Express

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 104

Guards to fend off angry parents

<<http://portal.morethannews.com/MiGlobalPdf/WebUI/Mtn.aspx?crypt=866ClGZfh%2fsMwLqia0RXLe6Y%2fMKSRiqBQLduy8PHh2DyYzHRUPsZwtlmt74YZaNJ>>

SOME doctors have asked for extra security guards at hospitals to protect them from the angry parents of any children refused swine flu treatment.

Doctors

## The Mail on Sunday

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 165

Doctors want guards to protect wards

<<http://portal.morethannews.com/MiGlobalPdf/WebUI/Mtn.aspx?crypt=866ClGZfh%2fsMwLqia0RXLQRCd%2b%2fk4FI4J57iEDi9FKVOC0Y%2fUJgDHLgiHG3GIOW3>>

Doctors want guards on the doors of hospitals and intensive care units in case the families of swine flu victims become violent if they are refused treatment.

Doctors

## The Sunday Telegraph

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 609

Christian adoption doctor barred in gay row

<<http://portal.morethannews.com/MiGlobalPdf/WebUI/Mtn.aspx?crypt=866ClGZfh%2fsMwLqia0RXLYEbfMjIAAmwSAXJnNrDe12ZTG%2bjNUo3xzESmTfLX9P1>>

A Christian doctor is to be removed from a council's adoption panel because she refuses to recommend cases involving homosexual couples. Dr Sheila Matthews, a paediatrician, was told that her stance meant she could no longer sit on Northamptonshire county council's panel because it conflicted with its equal opportunities policies.  
End of Life

News of the World

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 812

I wish my Ma had died with Dignitas

<<http://portal.morethannews.com/MiGlobalPdf/WebUI/Mtn.aspx?crypt=866CIGZfh%2fsMwLqia0RXLRHknyjo0uZ2qKMLt5JBKKryizfDf0INFaMZcfyF50LI>>

Carol Malone writes: When my mum and dad, who'd been married for 54 years, were both in failing health, I remember Dad saying to me: "I pray to God I go before your mum." And he meant it. I knew he wouldn't have survived a month without my Ma. Not because of his heart condition or his bowel cancer, but because his spirit would have shut down long before his vital organs. Which is why I totally empathise with 85-year-old Sir Edward Downes, who was going blind and deaf, and his wife Joan, 74, diagnosed with terminal cancer, who both went to the Dignitas clinic in Switzerland, took a lethal dose of drugs and died holding hands.'

End of Life

Sunday Express

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 481

Who can blame the couple who loved each other to death?

<<http://portal.morethannews.com/MiGlobalPdf/WebUI/Mtn.aspx?crypt=866CIGZfh%2fsMwLqia0RXLDGAJNf8KpL78XN0SGWPRQR47g3puz2ZmS3hXJ2OKdjz>>

TRISTAN and Isolde, Aida and Radamas, Gilda and her Duke. Like the tragic lovers in the Wagner and Verdi operas he conducted, Sir Edward Downes couldn't bear the thought of living without the love of his life. His former ballerina wife Joan, 74, who barely left his side for 54 years and had never missed a rehearsal or performance he conducted, was terminally ill with cancer. Incurable romantic Sir Edward, 85, was almost blind. He depended on her for everything. They died as they had lived, hand in hand. That the Downeses' assisted suicide at Switzerland's Dignitas clinic has sent shock waves around the world is a mystery. Sad, yes, but why would anybody find it shocking?

End of Life

Sunday Express

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 1070

Dying for a bit of dignity

<<http://portal.morethannews.com/MiGlobalPdf/WebUI/Mtn.aspx?crypt=866CIGZfh%2fsMwLqia0RXLa9QAfcyq7YD5s%2bIMxHVx5%2bCtXRI2vnyY1cj28%2bS3fsS>>

THE touching scenes of terminally ill Craig Ewert taking his own life in front of television cameras were expected to put a final line under the argument for assisted suicides. With his wife Mary by his side, the 59-year-old motor neurone sufferer gently slipped away after drinking a lethal dose of sedatives, administered by his own hand, at a Swiss euthanasia clinic. He also timed his ventilator to switch itself off. The dignified death scenes, screened last December, were heralded by supporters of euthanasia as the first step in the demise of one of the most controversial statutes in criminal law - assisted suicide. Anyone wishing to ease the suffering of someone stricken with a terminal or chronic illness by helping them to end their life faces a lengthy prison sentence in this country. Yet a 90-minute flight to Switzerland and there the law allows this most desperate of acts to be carried out in the calm, compassionate atmosphere of a Zurich clinic. Dignitas has helped more than 115 people from Britain to commit suicide since it was founded in 1998 and has never been far from the centre of controversy.

End of Life

Sunday Express

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 314

I was arrested after watching partner's suicide

<<http://portal.morethannews.com/MiGlobalPdf/WebUI/Mtn.aspx?crypt=866ClGZfh%2fsMwLqia0RXLbkOQ%2fBQG NwtfPF1lfQhBFmkNHHchkvvc1r71dH1P%2f%2fi>>

A man who watched his terminally ill partner die at the Dignitas clinic after taking the lethal dose of barbiturates has been arrested.

End of Life

Sunday Express

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 463

Did you know?

<<http://portal.morethannews.com/MiGlobalPdf/WebUI/Mtn.aspx?crypt=866ClGZfh%2fsMwLqia0RXLWBAWCKNKPk%2fA98m9Q2S9TrusE4ynhJJRi96Fx4eUQp>>

Belgium legalised euthanasia in 2002.

End of Life

The Mail on Sunday

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 396

How long until we abort the old,too? RE we going to do the same

<<http://portal.morethannews.com/MiGlobalPdf/WebUI/Mtn.aspx?crypt=866ClGZfh%2fsMwLqia0RXLVYMBzzcr%2faXeWjAT67F4Ylhx3mN%2bjGNOfTvOWqh8nC>>

Peter Hitchens comments on 'assisted suicide'.

End of Life

The Observer

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 1644

I watched as my parents faced their dignified, peaceful death - together

<<http://portal.morethannews.com/MiGlobalPdf/WebUI/Mtn.aspx?crypt=866ClGZfh%2fsMwLqia0RXLcYefoEflkfGaw HBkHGB6K2Fv97YkFVoKd99lZqNZN5n>>

Feature on the death of Sir Edward Downes.

End of Life

The Sunday Telegraph

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 528

Suicide clinic faces tough restrictions

<<http://portal.morethannews.com/MiGlobalPdf/WebUI/Mtn.aspx?crypt=866ClGZfh%2fsMwLqia0RXLU4n1olgZEAyg 1pWiwftoe3RNpJIVPoMwkBrgTOqRLk1>>

The Swiss suicide clinic where more than 100 Britons have taken their lives faces tough restrictions. Prosecutors in Zurich have unveiled new rules governing the way organisations such as Dignitas are allowed to operate, making it harder for foreigners to use them. Dignitas claims it has 800 British members with more seeking information every month.

End of Life

The Sunday Telegraph

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 183

The choice to die should be a right

<<http://portal.morethannews.com/MiGlobalPdf/WebUI/Mtn.aspx?crypt=866ClGZfh%2fsMwLqia0RXLZ%2bVGDFPa5 zQWW6LkKWSGLBgXqwLpdEFAAdcVRtUiwOC>>

Letter comment on Euthanasia.

End of Life

The Sunday Telegraph

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 1574

Why I had to take my beloved wife to die at Dignitas

<<http://portal.morethannews.com/MiGlobalPdf/WebUI/Mtn.aspx?crypt=866ClGZfh%2fsMwLqiaORXLYksoY38y1oKu dZlD260zwQUAkEO1N3oPXz8EK0ocrU0>>

David Witt comments on the assisted suicide of his wife, Elaine.

End of Life

The Sunday Times

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 184

A bad, painful way to go

<<http://portal.morethannews.com/MiGlobalPdf/WebUI/Mtn.aspx?crypt=866ClGZfh%2fsMwLqiaORXLSu%2bCF%2fc 1tPAso7XNaK8A460qGghNjEl2Ms5tn%2fooolC>>

A letter from Dr Brian Iddon, MP, Chairman of the Care Not Killing Alliance, on the subject of assisted suicide.

End of Life

The Sunday Times

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 1162

The quiet conductor

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Sir Edward Downes, one of the most self-effacing conductors in the classical music business, often underrated by critics and taken for granted by audiences, has achieved front-page celebrity with the manner of his passing. The news that he and his wife, Joan, travelled to the Dignitas clinic in Zurich in order to die together in an assisted suicide surprised, as well as saddened, the music world.

End of Life

The Sunday Times

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 1211

Dying with Dignitas is starting to look grubby

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he Swiss clinic that aids suicide is accused of poor care, botched procedures and even dumping ashes, writes

Matthew Campbell

GMC

Independent on Sunday

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 633

Doctor defends drugs policy at deaths hospital

<<http://portal.morethannews.com/MiGlobalPdf/WebUI/Mtn.aspx?crypt=866ClGZfh%2fsMwLqiaORXLXa6vUayFUH8 b%2f4CDithaHDJ%2bJ8OBm32CTj2vzfxObGz>>

The doctor at the centre of almost 100 suspicious deaths at a Hampshire hospital said last week she routinely prescribed large doses of painkillers and sedatives because she "didn't want any of her patients to suffer unnecessarily". Dr Jane Barton does not accept that the medication she prescribed to 12 patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital between 1995 and 1999 contributed to their deaths, the General Medical Council was told.

Miscellaneous

Sunday Express

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 602

### Safety fear over 'rush' for swine flu vaccine

<<http://portal.morethannews.com/MiGlobalPdf/WebUI/Mtn.aspx?crypt=866ClGZfh%2fsMwLqiaORXLTT5NR2oYRD6lqQVpwn1ffNZ2b5vcMBA%2bBF%2bx6woV1HJ>>

Doctors have cast serious doubts over the safety of the swine flu vaccine, which they claim is being "rushed in without proper testing".

Miscellaneous

### Daily Star Sunday

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 117

#### HOSPITAL'S BOSS QUILTS

<<http://portal.morethannews.com/MiGlobalPdf/WebUI/Mtn.aspx?crypt=866ClGZfh%2fsMwLqiaORXLZgLRvGsgE%2ffu5b1fa53OJ3SID09ERdk1FwUzpO%2fP4Vm>>

The chief executive of Broadmoor has quit just days before the publication of a report into a patient's death. Simon Crawford announced he would be leaving immediately. The confidential report is expected to criticise the way the hospital is run. Mr Crawford was known to have seen the contents of the health commission report into the death of Richard Loudwell.

Miscellaneous

### News of the World

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 72

#### Ripper's boss out

<<http://portal.morethannews.com/MiGlobalPdf/WebUI/Mtn.aspx?crypt=866ClGZfh%2fsMwLqiaORXLQyF9g%2booS2%2feJ929fv4pVDMbeaWuwIWISqKAEy5abbK>>

The head of a Broadmoor high security psychiatric hospital quit days before a damning report into the brutal death of a patient is made public.

NHS issues

### The Sunday Telegraph

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 91

#### BABY DIES FROM 'SALT OVERDOSE'

<<http://portal.morethannews.com/MiGlobalPdf/WebUI/Mtn.aspx?crypt=866ClGZfh%2fsMwLqiaORXLe%2b15Yy9VqGEot%2b22gPI3vj%2b8Z6WNgkMRFjKTnX2RI81>>

A baby boy has died in hospital from a suspected salt overdose. The infant, who was born prematurely in March, had been placed on a saline drip, which apparently left him dehydrated. He died on July 7, three days after the problem was spotted by staff at the Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham.

NHS issues

### News of the World

Delivery date : 7/19/2009

Number of words : 72

#### Ripper's boss out

<<http://portal.morethannews.com/MiGlobalPdf/WebUI/Mtn.aspx?crypt=866ClGZfh%2fsMwLqiaORXLR55XCmKjuR0qVHgudWjHcrPWsHZ2jzXOhFwbsaQk27I>>


THE boss of Broadmoor high security psychiatric hospital QUIT? days before a damning report into the brutal death of a patient is made public.



Lifestyle › Health & Families › Health News

# Doctor defends drugs policy at deaths hospital

GMC Gosport hearing told: 'I was aiming to ensure the maximum comfort and dignity for my patients'

By Nina Lakhani | Sunday 23 October 2011 |  0 comments



The doctor at the centre of almost 100 suspicious deaths at a Hampshire hospital said last week she routinely prescribed large doses of painkillers and sedatives because she "didn't want any of her patients to suffer unnecessarily".

Dr Jane Barton does not accept that the medication she prescribed to 12 patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital between 1995 and 1999 contributed to their deaths, the General Medical Council was told. These patients came to Gosport either at the end or near the end of their lives, she said. They died because of their underlying medical problems, despite what relatives may have been told about the possibility of rehabilitation by other hospitals.

The GMC's Fitness to Practise Panel is investigating allegations of professional misconduct in relation to 12 elderly patients who died under Dr Barton's care between 1995 and 1999.

She rejected criticisms levelled at her during previous weeks of

the hearing by a medical expert, Professor Gary Ford, some former colleagues, and relatives of the dead. The hearings heard she prescribed patients high doses of powerful painkillers and sedatives for no justified reason, contributing to their deaths – something she denies.

Dr Barton said: "It is quite inappropriate that a person should have to suffer. I was aiming to ensure the maximum comfort and dignity for my patients; this was not for my or the nurses' convenience."

When asked about her habit of anticipatorily prescribing diamorphine and the sedative midazolam, Dr Barton told the hearing: "Patients could have been with us a very short time when it became apparent to you clinically that they were reaching the end of their life ... this is not something you can measure or put into guidelines."

Dr Barton described oromorph [oral morphine] as a "very user-friendly drug" adding that in those days: "We were not as frightened of opiate use as we are now".

The Gosport GP said she'd felt "ideally suited to look after elderly patients at the end of their lives" when she took on the part-time hospital post in 1989, but by the time she resigned in April 2000 she was "sustaining an excessive and dangerous workload" because the patients they looked after were much sicker.

The panel saw copies of letters sent by Dr Barton to hospital managers at the beginning of 2000 about her concerns. By this point the police were already investigating deaths at the hospital as attempted murder.

After she resigned from Gosport, Dr Barton voluntarily agreed to stay away from the hospital and stopped prescribing opiates and benzodiazepines in her GP practice after she faced investigation by the NHS trust under the failing doctors' procedures, the panel was told. The trust would not confirm whether Dr Barton has



ever faced any formal disciplinary investigations.

When asked about the death of Gladys Richards, 91, whose death triggered the first police inquiry, Dr Barton told the panel that there was nothing she would do differently.

Mrs Richards died in August 1998, three days after she was re-admitted from a neighbouring acute hospital where she was treated for a dislocated hip caused by falling from a chair whilst at Gosport.

Dr Barton claimed that the note on Mrs Richards' transfer letter which said the patient was "weight bearing" was "over optimistic" and that the morphine she prescribed "seemed a very appropriate starting dose for her symptoms", despite the fact she had written "no obvious signs of pain" in Mrs Richards' notes. She added: "I considered that there were potential hazards and side-effects to it but my over-riding priority was to make her as pain-free as possible."

Dr Barton insisted she saw all the patients being discussed every morning, but did not have the time to record what she did in the medical notes.

The hearing continues.

### *Additional reporting by Tim Persinko*

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