

30909536

Code A

From: Code A
Sent: 04 March 2010 13:11
To: Robert Loughlin Code A
Cc: David Anson Code A Julian Graves Code A
Subject: FOI request for Barton support letters
Attachments: Barton support letters - selection - highlights FOR disclosure.pdf

Robert

Further to previous discussions regarding disclosure of the testimonials handed to the panel for Dr Barton's case, after examining a number of the letters of support, we considered that we could provide redacted versions of the letters, in order to protect the anonymity and privacy expectations of the contributors.

To demonstrate, I have attached a variety of the letters, from patients and colleagues/friends, and have highlighted the sections we could potentially disclose. Where a letter is handwritten and I haven't been able to highlight I have used boxes to indicate the potentially disclosable paragraphs. We have taken the view that we should not disclose any information that may lead to the identification of the contributors, or any medical details relating to them or any friends/relatives - deceased or otherwise. The judgement on disclosure is still, by the nature of the information itself, rather subjective.

We consider this to be a reasonable response to this request and, subject to your views, will provide the letters in a redacted form. We would also be grateful if you could run this approach by Paul.

Regards

Code A

Miss C Akhurst

Code A

26th June 2008

Ian SP Barker
 MDU Services Limited
 230 Blackfriars Road
 London
 SE1 8PJ

Dear Mr Barker

With reference to the proceedings at the General Medical Council for Dr Jane Barton.

My name is Cheryl Akhurst I live in Gosport and have known Dr Jane Barton for approximately 8 years as she has been my doctor at Forton Medical Practice I am registered with.

I have always had a good relationship with Dr Jane Barton, I have always found her helpful and supportive in the time I suffered with [REDACTED] in October 2006 after my Nan was taken ill in February 2006. Dr Jane Barton prescribed me 20mg of [REDACTED] and advised I take some time off work to help me cope and deal with [REDACTED]. That was 1 & 1/2 years ago and I am now coming off [REDACTED] with the support of Dr Jane Barton and am now down to 5mg and I'm coping very well. I feel being prescribed [REDACTED] was totally suitable to help me through this difficult period.

[REDACTED]

Dr Jane Barton visited my Nan on several occasions some being at home and in the Nursing Home. On all occasions I feel Dr Jane Barton assessed my Nan's health and dealt with her professionally and provided the medical attention she needed whether that was more care required at home or admitting her back to hospital where my Nan could get the care she needed. At no point did Dr Jane Barton prescribe my Nan any medication other than what the hospital had previously prescribed her. My Nan had respect for Dr Jane Barton and felt comfortable with her and had great pleasure in telling me Dr Jane Barton had been out to see her when I visited.

My overall opinion of Dr Jane Barton is, I have total respect for her as a Doctor and I felt confident and pleased in the professional care she gave my Nan.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Code A

Code A

Miss C Akhurst

Code A

.....

Sheila Allen

October 13, 2008

**Ian S P Barker
MDU Services Limited
230 Blackfriars Road
LONDON
SE1 8PJ**

Dear Sir:

Reference: General Medical Council - Dr Jane Barton

I am 42 years old, married with no children. I have been a patient and patient's relative of Dr Barton for over twenty years. In this time I have had several reasons to seek Jane's advice and guidance. The main reason is for my [REDACTED]

I experienced pain before and after these operations. Dr Barton has overseen my pain control from the early stages where I needed "brufen" all the way up to morphine which was the only medicine that controlled my severe pain [REDACTED]

I have always found Jane very caring and considerate in her approach to me. She has always asked and listened for a full description of the level of pain to be treated. She has always started my treatment with low doses and her constant reviews enabled her to increase the dosage until I have been comfortable with the pain control.

I have never known Jane to be a doctor that grabs the prescription pad as soon as you walk in to see her. There have been occasions when all I needed was advice about an operation or course of treatment. I have always found her very understanding and willing to listen. An example of this was when my mother was killed in a road traffic accident. My sister and I had separate appointments to see Doctor Barton. We both received different treatment of the highest standard. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Jane was my mother's doctor and she knows how close we are as a family. She was able to express sympathy and words of comfort that were truly meant. My husband (who is not a patient) found her support invaluable.

I have never felt I was wasting Jane's time. Even if her surgery list is running late she will not rush her consultations. Her care and true professional approach to her

Telephone: Code A

E-mail: Code A

October 13, 2008
Page 2

patients stands out. This is reflected in the fact that since this all started it is harder to get an appointment to see her because (unlike the GMC) her patients, the people who know her and have been treated by her, do support her. They have faith in her ability as a doctor. I certainly do not feel threatened by her and I am not aware of any other people who have concerns about her competence as a doctor.

Most people have a sensible attitude towards the unfortunate events that have started this enquiry. It is sad but old people die. If it was my parents I would want to know that they were free from pain and comfortable when they died. From my own experiences I know the level of pain relief needed varies. I do not think for one minute that Jane would intentionally harm any person.

The quality of care that Jane affords her patients is second to none. I believe my notes are detailed and accurate.

Care and proper treatment are Jane's paramount concern. At no time have I thought or felt that her treatment of me has been unprofessional in anyway.

Jane is a skilled and competent practitioner. Many would benefit by following her approach to patient-care and needs. Her experience enables her to deliver quality treatment and care to her patients because their welfare is her major concern.

Yours faithfully,

Code A

Sheila Allen

Dr. Richard E. Ashton, M.D., F.R.C.P.
Consultant Dermatologist

Wessex Nuffield Hospital,
Winchester Road,
Chandlers Ford, SO3 2DW
Tel: 02380 266377

Bupa Chalybeate Hospital,
Tremona Road,
Southampton, SO16 6UY
Tel: 02380 775544

Bridge House,
Mill Street,
Titchfield, PO14 4AB
Tel: 01329 842441

Bupa Hospital,
Barton Road,
Havant, PO9 5NP
Tel: 02392 454511

18 July 2008

Dear Sir

Ref: General Medical Council – Dr Jane Barton

I am a consultant Dermatologist at the Royal Hospital Haslar and Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust. I was formerly the Consultant Dermatologist to the Royal Navy and have served 36 years retiring in 2006. I have been working at Haslar Hospital for 24 years and have taken referrals from the local civilian general practitioners for all this time.

I have known Dr Jane Barton for all that time, firstly as a colleague who referred me patients and latterly I have met her socially. Over this period of time I have been able to get a good impression of the quality of care that she has given to her patients who have been referred to me. Without exception they all have spoken most highly of her as a person and doctor, who is always willing to do the right thing for them and to 'travel the extra mile' to make sure that their needs are looked after. Having worked in Gosport for this period of time, it has never come to my notice that there is any question about her professionalism. I have not doubt that the allegations made are unfounded.

Yours faithfully

Code A

Dr. J. H. BASSETT, M.B., ChB., M.R.C.G.P., D.R.C.O.G., D.C.H.
 Dr. I. S. BELL, B.Med.Sci(Honrs), B.M., B.S., D.R.C.O.G.
 Dr G. H. ASHBY, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P., M.R.C.G.P., D.C.H.
 Dr. M. FARRINGTON, B.M., M.R.C.G.P.

THE HEALTH CENTRE
 MANOR WAY
 LEE-ON-THE-SOLENT
 HANTS. PO13 9JG
 Tel: 023-92-550220
 Fax: 023-92-556170

CHARACTER REFERENCE - DR. JANE BARTON

I have been a General Medical Practitioner in Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, since 1985, senior partner of the Practice since 1994. Dr. Jane Barton has been one of my local GP colleagues in Gosport and we have always enjoyed an excellent professional relationship managing patients on the Gosport peninsular and serving together on various committees including the Gosport Medical Committee and Gosport Primary Care Group in the 1990's. I can confirm that Jane was a highly respected and extremely competent chair of the latter group and she was greatly missed by my colleagues and I when she stood down.

I have great respect and the highest regard for Jane's integrity, and, in common with my GP colleagues in Gosport, I have been shocked by the allegations made against her, in particular I have been extremely disappointed by the protracted time it has taken for the numerous investigations to take place. It is a tribute to Jane's fortitude that she has battled on in Practice with such a cloud hanging over her; in fact I cannot imagine what an emotional rollercoaster this past ten years has been for her. Despite this she has maintained her dignity throughout and stoically carried on with her Practice which has been much appreciated by her patients and colleagues alike.

With regard to the various allegations that have been made, there is concern about the dose range of morphine and Midazolam to be administered subcutaneously. Knowing Jane I have no doubt that the prescribing instructions were made in good faith with each of her patients welfare at heart, to ensure that suffering was minimalised. In hindsight Jane was unfortunate to be working in such a high risk environment managing such patients as described in the "Draft Notice of Hearing", without the various protocols of today, using Portsmouth notes which in my experience were of poor quality and not always easy to decipher and, with additional responsibilities to her general practice as well, it must have been difficult, sometimes impossible to be at the right time and place, leaving her rather exposed and open to criticism by today's standards, when vast teams of administrators and health professionals ensure watertight pathways of care, and, of course, considerably more support is forthcoming. In addition, Gosport War Memorial Hospital was very isolated from the main stream Portsmouth Hospitals without the customary level of support from the archetypal "medical firm", nor the same level of laboratory and x-ray support etc., hence I suspect Jane's variable syringe driver instructions were dictated by the situation as it was then, enabling the nursing staff to step up analgesia when required by the patient's condition; it is unfair to judge Jane on today's standards when she was, I believe, managing difficult situations as well as she could in suboptimal circumstances.



I can only comment specifically on one of the cases listed in the "Draft Notice of Hearing", that of patient E. Patient E was resident in a nursing home in Lee-on-the-Solent and she was under my care as her GP for approximately 4 years. I remember her as a lady in her early 90's, extremely frail, both mentally and physically, who prior to her fall and subsequent admission to Haslar Hospital with a fractured neck of femur, had been very agitated in the nursing home. Patient E's daughter from Sussex arranged to meet with me regarding her mother's care. She clearly had strong views about any form of psychotropic medication, almost to the extent of an antipathy towards the medical profession. She sent me a book, "Toxic Psychiatry" to emphasise her point and subsequently wrote to me a couple of years later enclosing a newspaper cutting from the Telegraph 'Alzheimer Drugs may be Harmful' and urging me to heed the words of "Toxic Psychiatry". Her opinions were dogmatic to say the least and I felt that she was on a mission and woe betide anyone who defied her views! I believe that she later made complaints about the nursing home and I am sure I would have been included had I not been sufficiently savvy to have my management endorsed by the local Old Age Psychiatry Service. My primary duty was to Patient E and I considered that her considerable agitation would be helped by a small dose of Haloperidol, though it was clear to me that her daughter disapproved. Whether this sowed the seeds for her subsequent complaints against her Mother's care in Gosport War Memorial I shall never know. I suspect that Patient E's condition and outlook following repair of her fractured neck of femur, would have been pretty bleak, requiring palliation of both physical and mental distress. I am convinced that Dr. Barton's choice of prescription for subcutaneous Diamorphine and Midazolam via the syringe driver was appropriate in the circumstances and, although the dose range for both is wide, I feel sure that this was done in good faith and written as a standard instruction to enable dose titration upwards, even in Dr. Barton's absence as she would have been for most of the time. Although not explicit (as dictated by present day protocols etc.), I am quite sure that the nursing staff would have understood the spirit of these instructions and only in exceptional circumstances would the higher dose ranges have been required, and almost certainly with Dr. Barton's further endorsement.

In summary I consider Dr. Jane Barton to be a good, honest doctor, respected by patients and colleagues in Gosport. I am sure that there was never any malicious intent and that Dr. Jane Barton had each of her patients best interests at heart. If there were any omissions in the patients notes or any seemingly excessive dosage instructions, it would have been necessitated by the circumstances she was faced with at the time and I think this should be recognised. She should be applauded for continuing to serve her patients when many of us would have walked away; I believe she has nothing to be ashamed about and much to be proud of and I look forward to celebrating the day when Jane's name is finally cleared.

Code A

Dr. John H. Bassett
24th June 2008



Dr J. D. Buchanan MA MB BChir FRCPath DCP
Bury Hall Farm House,
110 The Avenue
Alverstoke,
GOSPORT
Hants. PO12 2JY
Code A

RECEIVED
DEC 23 2008
GOSPORT

Friday, 26 December 2008

Mr I.S.P. Barker
The MDU
MDU Services Ltd
230 Blackfriars Road
LONDON SE1 8YB

Dear Mr Barker,

Re: General Medical Council v Dr Jane Barton
Your ref: ISPB/jh/0005949/Legal

I am a Consultant Histopathologist currently working for Portsmouth NHS Trust where I have been since August 2000. Between January 1996 and July 2000 I worked in Guernsey for the Board of Health as a States Pathologist and prior to that I retired from the Royal Navy as a Surgeon Captain, having spent most of my career as a pathologist at the Royal Naval Hospital Haslar in Gosport. I can recall having had professional contact with Jane as a medical colleague since she took up practice in Gosport and have known both her and her husband as personal friends since 1988, living just around the corner in Alverstoke village, apart from my time away in Guernsey. I have always had the greatest respect for Jane both as a highly competent General Practitioner with an excellent reputation both with her patients and with my fellow consultant colleagues in many specialties over many years. During that period I cannot recall a single episode of criticism of her medical care or conduct. Occasionally one of her patients would come to me via HM Coroner as a sudden or unexpected death but again I never found any cause for concern over their treatment. On the personal level she is a kind and deeply caring person who I have always enjoyed meeting either at her home or at private functions with mutual friends. As a pathologist I am not an expert in the recommended dosages of all the medications listed in the notice of hearing from the GMC and would defer to a suitable experienced consultant in that field who was aware of recommended practice at that time. I am quite sure that Jane worked

**Dr J. D. Buchanan MA MB BChir FRCPath DCP
Bury Hall Farm House,
110 The Avenue
Alverstoke,
GOSPORT
Hants. PO12 2JY**

Code A

entirely within her field of competence and within the then extant guidelines for care.

On a more personal note it deeply saddens me to see her accused of Serious Professional Misconduct in view of the repeated occasions when the GMC has previously exonerated her. It yet again brings me to question the current constitution and role of the GMC.

I am most willing to do anything I can to help Jane and to state publicly what I have outlined to you in this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Code A

**Dr J. D. Buchanan MA, MB, BChir, FRCPath, DCP.
Surgeon Captain, Royal Navy.**

Mrs K Darrington

Code A

Mr I Barker
MDU Services Ltd
230 Blackfriars Road
London
SE1 8PJ

Your ref: Code A

11 July 2008

Dear Mr Barker

General Medical Council - Dr Jane Barton

I first met Dr Barton in 1980 when she joined the Forton Road Surgery as a part-time junior partner and I was working at the practice as a receptionist. I worked at this practice until 1988 when, to further my career, I moved to another practice to become Practice Manager. During these eight years I saw Dr Barton's reputation for being a caring and conscientious GP, who always gave her patients the time they needed, spread. Her popularity and the respect she was held in meant that patients were willing to wait two or three weeks for an appointment with her even though other GPs were able to offer appointments much sooner.

When Dr Barton became a clinical assistant at Gosport War Memorial Hospital she would visit the hospital every morning to attend her patients before holding her GP surgery. During her surgeries she would often take phone calls from Gosport War Memorial.

When my own GP retired about seven or eight years ago I became a patient of Dr Barton's, although due to my good health at the time I did not need to see her very often. However, when my husband died suddenly she showed compassion and care and was extremely helpful and supportive to me during this difficult period. In 2007 I was diagnosed with [REDACTED] and with the additional GP visits I have made to see Dr Barton I have experienced her very professional and caring nature at first hand. Whilst Dr Barton has always put my needs as a patient first, she also sees the wider picture. As such she always asks after the whole family when I see her; a quality that I appreciate and admire as it reiterates my individuality as a patient and reaffirms her understanding of me, my needs, and my situation.

I have read the "Draft Notice of Hearing" and understand the nature of the allegations being made. Based on my own experiences as both receptionist and patient I believe Dr Barton's priority is always the well being of her patients. It is a known fact that increasing dosages of morphine will shorten life, and whenever such medication changes are made I am sure that Dr B

Barton, like all other GPs, would be fully aware of the related risks and consequences. With this in mind, I am sure that any increases to an individual's morphine dose would only have been prescribed by Dr Barton after much consideration and with the immediate comfort and well being of the patient being her only concern.

The case against Dr Barton has been covered by the local press on many occasions over the last few years. However, she is evidently still highly regarded by her patients as her continued popularity means that despite all that has been reported we are still having difficulty getting an appointment with this friendly, professional and very caring GP.

Yours sincerely

Code A

Mrs K Darrington

Mrs V.M.B.Diment

Code A

10th July 2008.

Your Ref: **Code A**

Dear Mr Barker,

I am writing as a patient of Doctor Barton, she has been in attendance to me for years. She have helped me through

Dr. Barton has been at the end of the phone to help me, my husband and sons to get through this, she has always been very caring and very honest.

I have always felt that Dr. Barton is very dedicated to her job and puts her patients first and do not think twice about getting help from a specialist.

I have spoken to other patients of Dr. Barton and they feel the same as me. So, I hope the Board will see Dr. Barton as the Honest, Caring, Professional and Friendly Doctor as she is.

Hoping they will see Dr. Barton as her patients see her.

Yours sincerely

Code A

Valerie M.B.Diment.

Surgeon Rear Admiral M.A. Farquharson-Roberts CBE MA MB FRCS
Consultant Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgeon

Code A

19 July 2008

Ian S P Barker
Solicitor
The MDU
MDU Services Limited
230 Blackfriars Road
London SE1 8PJ

Code A

Thank you for your letters, please forgive my dilatory reply, I have had some urgent family matters to deal with necessitating me travelling back and forwards to St Neots.

I have known Dr Jane Barton for many years professionally and socially. The latter has been at the level of being mutual guests in the same social circle and because her husband and I were in the Royal Navy together.

My professional acquaintance was as a consultant at the then Royal Naval Hospital Haslar (subsequently the Royal Hospital Haslar). Initially my only knowledge of her was from professional referrals by letter and occasionally by telephone. I came to know her as a very competent general practitioner; her referrals were always appropriate and included a pertinent history and clinical examination. If she rang me to ask to see a patient urgently, my immediate reaction was to agree to see the patient without waiting for the clinical details; I knew that if she was asking, the patient needed to be seen. Regrettably the foregoing was far from typical of my referral base, inappropriate referrals of patients who had not been even briefly examined were far from uncommon.

My first working direct contact with her was when I became Clinical Director of Surgery, and she sat as representative of the local GPs on a hospital liaison committee with me. I came to know her as efficient, business like and thorough.

While I have had no direct experience of her practice, I would add that my late father was an inpatient in the Gosport War Memorial hospital for two extended periods until his death in December 2000. During the six months or so that he was an inpatient on various wards and would therefore have been under Dr Barton's care. I and/or my wife (a qualified nurse) used to visit him nearly

every day, and at no time was I given any cause to think that his care was anything other than exemplary.

If I can be of further assistance, do not hesitate to contact me

Yours sincerely

Code A

Code A

Code A

Your ref: **Code A**

24 June 2008

MDU Services Limited
230 Blackfriars Road
London SE1 8PJ

For attention of Mr Ian SP Barker

Dear Sirs

General Medical Council - Dr Jane Barton

I have known Dr Barton since she joined the practice, of which my husband Dr CP Gray was then senior partner in 1980, until the present day.

She has been my General Practitioner of choice for many years, although I have been seen by other members of the practice for emergency care.

As a Senior Clinical Medical Officer I undertook Developmental Assessment sessions at the surgery, and also medicals at schools in the locality.

In my opinion Dr Barton is an excellent doctor. From my own experience as a patient, she listens to what I say, examines thoroughly and reassures, refers or treats accordingly to her findings, she is a popular doctor and it can be quite difficult to make an appointment to see her.

During my sessions at the surgery I observed she was well liked by both staff and patients.

Likewise at school medicals, it was apparent that her patients were well satisfied.

To sum up, Dr Barton is of excellent character. She is conscientious, providing care of the highest standard. Her manner is professional with a clinical approach rather than an emotional empathetic one, but she is well aware of the background problems of her patients and the measures required to alleviate social and psychological as well as pathological problems.

Yours faithfully

Code A

Dr Margaret Gray MB. Ch. B.

REC'D

20 JUN 2008

LEGA

Code A

8-08-2008.

DEAR MR FAN BARKER.

THIS IS MY CHARACTER REFERENCE
FOR DR JANE BARTON. MY NAME IS
GLENDA HARRIS BORN IN Code A

I WAS BORN IN GOSPORT & HAVE BEEN
A PATIENT OF THE FORTON ROAD SURGERY
SINCE I WAS BORN. I HAVE KNOWN
DR BARTON SINCE SHE JOINED THE
PRACTICE SOME 28 YRS AGO. AT THE
TIME SHE JOINED THE PRACTICE MY
G.P. WAS DR KNAPMAN. WHEN
DR KNAPMAN WAS NOT AVAILABLE
TO SEE, I SAW DR BARTON WHEN
POSSIBLE. OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS
I PREFERRED TO SEE DR BARTON AS
I FELT SHE WAS VERY UNDERSTANDING

AND I FELT SHE VIEWED YOU AS A PERSON + NOT JUST ANOTHER PATIENT. MY ELDEST DAUGHTER WHO IS Code A YES AND HAS THREE CHILDREN ALSO Code A YES + Code A YES. ALSO ALWAYS LIKED TO SEE DR BARTON FOR HERSELF + HER THREE CHILDREN. SHE ALWAYS FELT WELL LOOKED AFTER + SUPPORTED BY DR BARTON. FOUR YEARS AGO I HAD A [REDACTED] + WAS VERY POORLY. I SAW DR BARTON ALL THROUGH THIS VERY DIFFICULT TIME. SHE WAS ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO SEE ME AT SHORT NOTICE + WAS SO CARING + SUPPORTIVE TO ME + MY FAMILY WHO ALSO FOUND THIS A VERY DIFFICULT TIME. WITH DR BARTONS HELP AND THE RIGHT MEDICATION I WAS PUT BACK ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY + WAS ABLE TO RETURN TO WORK STILL HAVING HER CONSTANT SUPPORT.

IF AT ANY TIME I FEEL I NEED TO SEE A DOCTOR I WILL ALWAYS WAIT FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO SEE DR BARTON IF POSSIBLE.

MY MOTHER WHO IS NOW 92 YRS OLD IS ALSO A PATIENT AT FORTON RD SURGERY. SHE WAS NOT HAPPY WITH HER EXISTING G.P. AND ASKED IF SHE COULD SEE DR BARTON WITH WHOM SHE NOW HAS BEEN SEEING FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS. SHE WILL NOT BE HAPPY TO SEE ANY OTHER G.P. AS SHE FEELS ABLE TO TRUST DR BARTON & FINDS HER VERY KIND & SUPPORTIVE. I FEEL THAT

DR BARTON IS A VERY GOOD G.P. & MYSELF & MY FAMILY HAVE GREAT TRUST IN HER. IF I CAN BE OF ANY FURTHER ASSISTANCE PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT ME.

YOURS SINCERELY
CLENDA HARRIS

Code A

UCL DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

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UCL

Ian S Barker Esq.,
 MDU services,
 230 Blackfriars Rd.,
 London SE1 8PJ

Ref.: ISPB/jh/0005940/Legal

4 July 2008

Dear Mr Barker,

Dr Jane Barton: General Medical Council

I have known Dr Jane Barton since 1974. I was for a period related to her by marriage, but since my divorce ten years ago this is no longer the case. Throughout the time I have known her I have grown close to her and her family. I helped out when her children were little and on occasion provided a temporary base for them as teenagers; Jane has done more than the same for me and mine. I and my children know Jane well not only as former relative by marriage, but as a lasting friend and mentor. My daughter is a medical student: over the last few years she spent short periods helping out at Jane's GP practice, and was accepted on Jane's recommendation to carry out voluntary work in a Gosport care home. In both, she met nothing but profound trust in and liking and respect for Jane, for her professional skill, kindness and good judgment.

Jane has always been an exceptional person: strong, responsible, hard working, practical, supportive, with a deep affection and regard for family, friends and patients. We do not live close by and Jane has never been my GP, but I have on occasion over the years sought her advice over wider issues and I know how sensitive and even-handed her approach has invariably been. I have experienced at first hand the lively, creative and generous mindset she brings to helping people find solutions, and the deep professional integrity with which she addresses difficult problems, and which rules her personal decisions. Over the years I have watched from the sidelines I have seen Jane informally become senior statesman to her own energetic, individualistic, high-achieving extended family network of brothers, sisters, parents, in-laws, children, nephews, nieces. From that perspective I have seen her throughout her career as an extremely thoughtful and responsible doctor, considerate towards those in her care, generous with her time, working to find perceptive, well-grounded, individually appropriate ways of managing complex health and family problems, leavening her professional skill with personal warmth, a strong sense of humour, and an equally strong dose of common sense and proportion. At the same time I have seen her meticulously careful in all things, always her own fiercest critic, setting herself personal and professional standards the rest of us would be proud to achieve and maintain.

Jane is not my GP, but there is no one to whom I would more readily entrust my health or the health of those dear to me. I hope to see her given the real appreciation she deserves, and I hope that some way will be found to acknowledge and make redress for the extraordinary burden that four recurrent cycles of investigation over a ten-year period, without let-up or resolution, have imposed on this outstanding and dedicated health practitioner. I would be happy to provide any further input you feel would be useful.

Yours sincerely,

Code A

Katherine Homewood
 Professor, Anthropology, UCL.

Code A

Mon. 30th June /08

Dear Sir

Concerning the allegations of serious professional misconduct against Dr. Barton have come as a great surprise to me, and cannot imagine there being any truth in this matter.

Whilst working with Dr. Barton as receptionist for over fifteen years

her caring & professional manner to her patients & colleagues alike was always evident.

My mother in law Mrs. Elizabeth Saunders became a long stay patient on Daedalus ward at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. Our family were most grateful for the extremely good care &

attention that she received
from Dr Barton & all nursing staff

I cannot speak highly enough
of Dr Barton both as a working
colleague & patient care for our
family as a whole, & sincerely
hope that all these allegations
will be disproved, & she can
continue to give her excellent
care for her patients.

Yours Sincerely

Code A

Dr. Sheila M.E. Lynch

Code A

11 August 2008

General Medical Council – Dr Jane Barton

Dear Mr Barker

I am a General Medical Practitioner, **Code A** I am a fulltime partner working in Bruns Medical Centre, 10 Rowner Road, Gosport, Hampshire, PO13 0EW. I have worked in general Practice in Gosport since 1989.

I have known Dr Barton as a colleague working in a neighbouring practice since that time, and in more recent years as a personal friend. My professional links to Dr Barton have been through meeting her at educational meetings, her association as a local representative on the PCG, a member of the Gosport Medical committee and also on a more social level in the Lady Doctors Group, where the discussion often turned to work related matters.

Gosport remains a close-knit community and working in the town you do get a feel as to who are the well regarded GPs in the area – there is movement of patients between practices as they move in and out of catchment areas. I have never heard or had any impression from a patient of Dr Barton's, that they had anything less than the upmost respect for her and I have heard no criticism of her medical care.

Relating to her work at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital, a very close personal friend of mine's mother, was admitted under Dr Barton's care after [REDACTED] My friend has always expressed that she had complete confidence that Dr Barton would give her mother the best care. She was also very grateful to her for her straightforward and honest assessment of her mother's prognosis when they were in discussion together about her mother's health.

Over the years I have known Dr Barton, I have always found her to be open, straightforward and completely honest in her dealings with everyone. She has been immensely supportive at times, and is someone I would have no hesitation in turning to for advice. I would also be happy to have her as a General Practitioner for any member of my own family.

Yours sincerely

Code A

THE STUBBINGTON MEDICAL PRACTICE



THE SURGERY, PARK LANE
STUBBINGTON
HANTS PO14 2JP

Tel: 01329 664231
Fax: 01329 664858

Email: parklanesurgery@hotmail.com

To whom in may concern

My name is Dr Judith Elizabeth Rees and I am a GP Principal in the Stubbington Medical Practice.

Jane Barton ahs been known to me as a friends and colleague for the last 10 years. I am a partner in a neighbouring Practice for the last 18 years and have also been involved in GP Education locally as a Course Organiser on the Portsmouth Vocational Training Course and until recently Associate Director for GP Education on Portsmouth and South East Hampshire. I am a fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioner and a College examiner.

I first had contact with Jane as part of the Gosport Medical Group of doctors where she is well regarded. I have no direct knowledge of her clinical skills but she is well respected as a doctor in this small local community of doctors.

I have also met her regularly over the years as a fellow member of the Fareham and Gosport women doctors group. This is a thriving local group of women doctors from Primary and secondary care which meets regularly for

Doctors

R. WARNER A.J. PATERSON, M.T. TENTERS, J.E. REES, P.N. HOPKINS S.J. ROBINS S.P.C. VASEY & K.-Y. TAN

<http://www.stubbingtonmedical.co.uk>

peer support. It also has an educational function and provides an opportunity for discussing clinical problems. We have an annual residential course which provides an opportunity to get to know members of the group well as well as to share a programme of Educational activity.

During these sessions we discuss clinical cases and I have always been impressed by Jane's medical knowledge and professionalism and her empathy for patients.

On a personal level I have found her to be honest and direct and I would no hesitation on seeking her advice either for professional or personal reasons. She has shown great fortitude over the last few years during this investigation and I share her local colleagues' admiration for her determination to continue working and to clear her name.

Code A

Dr Judith Rees BSc MBBS DCH FRCGP

Code A

20th July 2008

Dear Jane,

I am a friend and colleague and have known you for 15 years.

As a colleague I have always found you to be a hard-working, compassionate and talented doctor. You have an extraordinary ability to practise medicine with humanity, integrity and skill. You have been a great source of knowledge and wisdom and I consider you as a role model.

As a friend I have always found you to be reliable, trustworthy, selfless, good-humoured and full of encouragement. I know that you will cringe with embarrassment when you hear this as you are always uncomfortable with praise and recognition of your many qualities.

I look forward to a time when you can close this chapter of her life with regard to when you diligently worked as a Clinical Assistant at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. This was a difficult post with meagre resources which did not match the needs or expectations of those who were gravely ill and their families.

I hope you will continue to practise until your chosen and well-earned retirement.

Yours sincerely

Code A

Dr Felicity Shaw

BM DRCOO MRCCP DFFP

(Vice chair Hampshire LMC, member of Gosport Medical Committee, colleague and friend)



Dr D B Traynor MB, ChB, D.O.M., R.C.O.G., F.F.C.M.
 Dr M C Davis B.M., D.O.M., R.C.O.G., F.F.C.M.
 Dr H Yeo B.M., M.B.S., D.R.C.O.G., F.F.C.M.
 Dr D M Chilvers M.B.S., D.R.C.O.G., M.R.C.G.P., F.F.C.M., Dip. Occ. Med.
 Dr Z Mebrahtu B.M., D.R.C.O.G., D.F.F.P., M.R.C.G.P.
 Dr L Russell B.M., D.R.C.O.G., M.R.C.G.P., M.S.A.
 Dr C Barham M.B.S., D.R.C.O.G., M.R.C.G.P., F.F.C.M.
 Mrs J A Colebourne FRCGS, FRCR, Dip.

Waterside Medical Centre
 Mumby Road
 Gosport
 PO12 1BA

Tel: 023 9258 3344
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Your ref: Code A

Our ref: Code A

14th July 2008

Ian S P Barker
 Solicitor
 The Medical Defence Union Services Limited
 230 Blackfriars Road
 LONDON
 SE1 8PJ

Dear Mr Barker

Re: Dr Jane Barton

Thank you for your letter of the 7th July. I am a general practitioner in Gosport. I have been here since July 1980. I have known Dr Barton as a fellow healthcare professional through her working career in Gosport. I have met her socially. I have met her professionally when attending various meetings over the course of the years. I have done some second part cremation certificates for her over the years.

I have always found her to be a very professional person when dealing with her in connection with the cremation certificates that I have been involved with over the years. I have completed the second part of these certificates and certainly some of these relate to people who have died in Gosport War Memorial Hospital. I certainly made enquiries about these deaths with staff on the ward and in all circumstances it seemed that her treatment had been entirely appropriate and been given in a caring and conscientious manner.

I have met her when attending local meetings, particularly in the Gosport Medical Committee, and again dealings with her always have been entirely appropriate and professional and would not have led me to any concerns about her clinical care.

I have met assorted patients of hers over the years. Again, this has sometimes been in a social context and sometimes in a professional context and I have certainly never been led to believe that there were any worries or concerns about her care.

Yours sincerely

Code A

Dr D B Traynor

Code A

Portsmouth Hospitals **NHS**

NHS Trust

Our Ref: Code A
Your Ref:Paediatric Department
St Mary's Hospital
Portsmouth PO3 6ADDictated: 01/08/2008
Typed: 04/08/2008Tel: 023 9286 6107
Fax: 023 9286 6101**STRICTLY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**Ian Barker
Solicitor
The MDU
MDU Services Ltd
230 Blackfriars Road
London
SE1 8PJ

Dear Mr Barker,

Re: GMC - Dr Jane Barton

Thank you for your letter of the 7th July 2008. I am privileged to be asked to provide a character reference for Dr Jane Barton whom I have known as a General Practitioner in Gosport for fourteen years. I am a Consultant paediatrician at Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust and since my appointment in 1994 I have undertaken clinics at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. Initially I held General Paediatric Clinics but I now run more specialist clinics in Paediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes and I occasionally see some of our Paediatric Oncology patients there to minimise distances these patients have to travel. As such I have seen a broad range of patients referred under the care of Dr Barton. I have also had the opportunity to discuss patients with her on the phone or in person at the Post Graduate teaching sessions she attends. Some of these have formed part of a collaborative group of lady GPs from Gosport and Fareham who hold regular educational events, to which I have contributed. I have therefore had the opportunity to observe Dr Barton's clinical interest in my own subject as well as observe her interaction with fellow colleagues and other speakers on specialist topics. Much of this is predated my knowledge of events for which she is being investigated by the GMC.

I can state without hesitation that I have always been impressed by Dr Barton's interest in patient care and by the depth of her knowledge, pertaining to her role as a General Practitioner. From my observation of group interaction I would conclude that Dr Barton is well respected amongst her colleagues and considered to be senior amongst them. Correspondence with her in writing or personally is always helpful and thorough and from my experience she takes a genuine interest in the welfare of her patients and knows them well. As an example we share the care of a young man with

but Dr Barton has sought them out and kept me up to date with the discussions she has had with his family. She appears to take a pride in offering a high standard of care to all her patients.

Dr Barton also has great character and since hearing about the GMC case I have been impressed by her fortitude and good humour despite all the delays and uncertainties this has caused. She also has a great sense of humour which has been maintained throughout.

If I can provide any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Code A

Dr Joanna M Walker, FRCP
Consultant Paediatrician



Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals **NHS**

NHS Trust

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18th May 2009

Mr Ian S P Barker
Solicitor
MDU Services Ltd
230 Blackfriars Road
London SE1 8PJ

Dear Mr Barker

General Medical Council – Dr Jane Barton

I first met Dr Jane Barton in 1995 when I took up post, first as Locum Consultant in Palliative Medicine (April 1995), then as a substantive consultant (September 1995), at Countess Mountbatten House (CMH), the specialist palliative care service in Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust. I remained in that capacity until 2003, when I moved to my current post in Oxford.

Our interaction was primarily in Jane's capacity as a local GP and mine as Consultant in Palliative Medicine covering the Fareham and Gosport geographical areas. This involved:

- offering telephone advice, either in relation to specific patients or in general
- conducting domiciliary assessments at Jane's request, followed by advice and/or offering continuing support from CMH
- consulting on patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital, particularly in relation to patients on the GP ward (Sultan Ward)
- carrying out teaching sessions within her practice, for the Fareham and Gosport GPs as a group, or at Gosport War Memorial Hospital
- seeking and responding to feedback from GPs, both formally and informally; following the inception of Primary Care Groups, Jane was particularly instrumental in helping to shape the quality of services offered to patients in the area.

Jane has always struck me as being an eminently sensible and caring GP. This impression was borne out by comments made by her patients, when I met them on my domiciliary assessments. She was passionate about ensuring best possible care

for her patients, and in my interaction with her, I always felt that Jane tried to act in their best interests at all times.

She is forthright and I have always found her willing to speak her mind. She found delays in the system particularly frustrating, especially if they resulted in real discomfort or distress to her patients, e.g. delays in pain management or access to effective analgesics. I also know her to be extremely loyal to her colleagues, both medical and nursing. She was particularly concerned for her nursing colleagues at Gosport War Memorial Hospital, whom she sometimes felt did not have adequate access to on-site medical time and support, despite the growing complexity of patient care they were being expected to undertake.

In short, Jane's general attitude and approach to the care and welfare of her patients was such that I would have been very happy to have her as my GP, had I been living in her catchment area.

Yours sincerely

Code A

Code A

6th June 2009.

Mr Ian S. P. Barker, Solicitor
MDI! Services Limited
230 Blackfriars Road
London SE1 8JP

Dear Mr. Barker

I write to you in support of Doctor Jane Barton

I am Betty Woodland RGN, and as such worked as a full time senior nurse practitioner in a nurse led accident and emergency department at Gosport War Memorial hospital from August 1978 until the department was transferred to Haslar Naval hospital in the summer of 2000. Although I am now retired from front line nursing I am still employed part time by Hampshire Community Health Care in various roles, training staff, supporting staff and management.

We were a General Practitioner unit dependant on local GP's to cover emergencies; there was no permanent medical cover. Dr. Barton is a local GP, in a practice of GP's who were part of the rota of all the GP surgeries in Gosport covering the department, for their own patients and any patients who came into the department from out of town, holiday makers - visitors or patients who were not registered with a doctor. Over the twenty two years I worked in the hospital I came to know all of the GP's including Dr. Barton very well.

I also have another role in the Trust. Since 1985 I have been an accredited Steward for the Royal College of Nursing, and have covered Gosport War Memorial hospital and the surrounding areas as the local RCN Representative for members of the college, I would have been the first port of

call for any staff on the wards who were experiencing difficulties or who had concerns or difficulties and would have been able to assist them. Such issues would have included concerns about a doctor or systems of work or concerns about the treatment of patients.

I would also have been part of any disciplinary procedures taken against them as their supporting union representative, all of the trained staff in the hospital at the time of the matters involving allegations against Dr. Barton were members of the Royal College of Nursing.

Part of my role over the last 11 yrs. has been to support all staff involved in all the police and CHI investigations

In 1993 / 94 the unions combined with senior managers and negotiated a very robust whistle blowing policy with the Trust as we went forward into a community trust and split from the acute unit Queen Alexandra hospital, the War Memorial Hospital came under the control of the Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust in 1994. That policy is now used elsewhere in the country as a very effective model. If any nursing members had had concerns there was this robust system for dealing with them, and indeed if the complaint was not dealt with adequately and the process had been followed, staff even had Trust permission to approach the media. This still applies in the Hampshire Community Health Care policy today.

I am aware of concerns from some members of the Nursing Staff which were expressed at Redcliffe Annexe in 1991. As I recall things changed a lot in the early 90s. Staff Training over decade ago was not always seen as a high priority in community units. This is no longer true as we are now a Community Trust. In 1991 we were part of the Queen Alexandra Hospital in Cosham, and we were effectively at the far end of one of their branches. As a community unit, it took a while for things to filter through to us.

My recollection of the concerns in the early 1990s is that this essentially related to a lack of training in the use of and understanding of syringe drivers, and that with that appropriate training, those concerns were then allayed. The Nursing Staff raised concerns because they had not been trained sufficiently, but that was then resolved, with specialists from Macmillan and from palliative care coming in to provide training.

In 1994 new buildings at the main hospital were completed, the staff and patients from Redcliffe Annexe were brought up to the main unit and became Dryad ward

I am aware that in the mid 1990s, acute units at the District General Hospitals became busier and they then asked Gosport to take more patients. Although my work was principally in Accident and Emergency, inevitably this was known to me, through discussions with nursing colleagues, as I used to visit the wards as duty sister for the hospital if I was the senior nurse on duty.

we used to handover the responsibility to night staff on the wards at 8-30pm and they would deal with any patients who presented at the hospital, some of the night nurses were very experienced in the treatment of casualties. I would often see Dr. Barton around in the hospital very early as I came on duty around 7-15am most days and would have to locate the hospital keys to open up the department which was at the opposite end of the hospital to the wards

In addition, I was Minutes Secretary to the local League of Friends for the Hospital who were asked to provide more specialised equipment for higher dependency patients, for example special beds and chairs. I remain involved with them.

It was apparent that over a period of time there were increasing numbers of patients being admitted to the Wards at the War Memorial Hospital. It was also clear to me that there was an increase in dependency and a deterioration in the condition of patients admitted to the Wards. This would inevitably have increased the amount of work for the Nursing and Medical Staff,

As a nurse, if there was a question of attending to the patients or a Nursing Kardex, inevitably the emphasis for a nurse would be on attending to the patient. The burden on the nurses in relation to the time available to care for patients and the increased pressures would have inevitably had an effect on the ability of the staff to make full or even adequate notes. We can all look back with hind sight and see how we could have done things differently, but you have to remember some of the allegations go back over a decade and I can assure you things have changed year on year and will continue to do so.

I knew Dr Jane Barton because she was a local General Practitioner. Each week in the Casualty Department we would have a different practice on duty for those patient who were not registered locally with a General Practitioner, and I came to know her from her responsibilities in attending at the Hospital in that capacity. I also knew her as she would come into Casualty when going to the Wards at lunch time, and would collect the Practices post from the General Office.

On occasion it was necessary to ask her to come down from the Wards in order to assist in Casualty with an incident, the nurse first on duty would be alone in the department and would have to deal with whatever came in. Officially it should have been minor injuries, in practice it could be something very major, for example severe chest pain, severe bleeding, asthmatics, patients fitting.

All staff were aware Dr. Barton was around in the hospital very early hour in order to see her patients - indeed she never failed to come unless she was on holiday. In the event that we needed her to attend in Casualty to assist, she would come immediately if requested to do so. I realise with hind sight that calling her to help in Casualty added to her work load.

As I indicated in my statement to the Police and the General Medical Council I always found Dr Jane Barton to be very professional in the way she responded to my calls for help, and in the compassionate way she treated patients and dealt with relatives in the Casualty Department at the War Memorial Hospital, and indeed in the way she related to me as a nurse.

I never heard her be abrupt or callous with a patient. She joked with patients on occasion when they had done something stupid that led to them being injured, for example, a young man [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] she distracted him to make him less aware of the treatment we gave him which included suturing the wound.

I never worked on the Wards at the War Memorial Hospital, but Dr Barton was a professional colleague for whom I have the greatest respect and admiration in the way she has conducted herself over the past very difficult years. She has quietly got on with being a very well liked local GP whom her patients adore. A lot of my colleagues are in fact her patients at the GP surgery.

Having come to know Dr Barton since she came to Gosport I believe I have had a very good opportunity to form a view of her character. I can say that she is a very approachable individual. With a great sense of humour. I have never heard anybody say anything unpleasant about her. I can say that she was always reliable, and it was apparent to me that in addition to attending on the Wards in the mornings, she would also come back to the Hospital lunch times and in the evenings. I always found her to be an extremely agreeable hardworking individual, and at no time did I have any concern about the quality of care she provided to patients. I have not heard anyone say anything derogatory about Dr Barton except relatives involved in the investigations and the local press / media. I believe she took up her post as Clinical Assistant and continued with it because she enjoyed the work that she did. When ultimately she realised she could no longer perform to the standard she wished because of the pressure upon her, she resigned. It was a great loss to Gosport War Memorial and ultimately the Health Services.

I would describe her as very professional, compassionate and very caring. Her staff and her patients adore her. She is someone who is always there for her patients.

Yours Sincerely

Code A

Code A

Mrs. Betty Woodland RGN.

REF 20

Code A

Code A

6 November 2008

Dear Mr S.P Barker

I am writing to confirm that I have been a patient of Dr Barton for approximately 28 years. During this time I have visited Dr Barton regularly for ongoing review and treatment for [REDACTED]. In addition to this I have consulted Dr Barton on numerous other occasions, some of which have led to referrals to hospital for the following conditions:

[REDACTED]

In all the time she has been my GP, Dr Barton has treated me with the utmost care, respect and understanding. I have never had cause to question her professionalism or judgement about my care and treatment. Whenever I have an appointment with Dr Barton I always leave the surgery in a better frame of mind than when I went in, reassured that I have been listened to by somebody who knows and understands my condition and an appropriate course of action taken. I have not heard a bad word said about Dr Barton and hospital staff I have met appear to think highly of her also.

In my opinion she is a very caring doctor, whose first thought is always for her patients. On discovering I was a keyboard player and played at local care homes, she asked me to play for the elderly patients in Gosport War Memorial Hospital and subsequently arranged for me to do so.

Now that I am 73 years of age it is reassuring to know that I have such an excellent doctor looking after my well being.

Yours sincerely

P. York

Code A

Barker, Ian

From: Evelyn Beale [Code A]
Sent: 12 January 2010 17:29
To: Barker, Ian
Subject: testimonial for Dr Jane Barton

Manor Way Surgery
 Manor Way
 Lee on the Solent
 PO13 8JW

12th January 2010

Dear Mr Barker

Thank you for asking me to provide a testimonial for Dr Jane Barton. I can confirm that I have read the documents that you included with your request.

I am a GP practising in Lee on the Solent. I moved into the area in 1988 when I became a partner in a local practice. I have known Dr Barton for much of that time. She has a reputation locally as a conscientious and caring GP, trusted by her patients and respected by her professional colleagues. I was also a member of the Gosport locality group when she was the GP lead. She showed herself to be a plain talker but also a keen supporter of Gosport residents. She endeavoured to ensure that Gosport did not come out second best and spoke up for the patients and doctors interests, especially when they differed from those of the PCG.

Former patients of hers who are now registered with my practice due to moving house speak very highly of her.

I have been carrying out GP appraisals since October 2009.

Although this is only a short time, I have completed 8 so far on doctors working in the Fareham and Gosport area. I had to attend 2 training days to become an appraiser and in addition to these have attended a study day which covered doing difficult appraisals, concentrating on doctors who were performing badly for various reasons.

Dr Barton succeeded in fulfilling all the criteria for a competent doctor in her appraisal, despite having spent 4 months away from her practice. In deed, her performance has been more than competent.

She showed evidence of providing good clinical care. She performed well in her practice questionnaire with her patients preferring to wait and see her rather than consult someone else, proof that they trust her judgement.

Her practice performs very well in the prescribing area as shown in their PACT data. Her practice also gained a high QOF score.

She has no significant complaints this year. She and her partners hold meetings at which significant events are discussed. In general practice, the term significant event is used when a problem has arisen. This can be a clinical error or an administrative one. She is able to look objectively at significant events as they have occurred and is happy to discuss these openly with her colleagues to ensure that such problems are less likely to recur.

Although she has not looked after any dying patients, she has closely read the Liverpool Care Pathway which lays down the foundation for good palliative care. Her comments on this show that she is interested in this area of care and is keen to learn about it.

She has abided by the conditions imposed upon her by the GMC, namely not prescribing various controlled drugs and sedatives and not looking after terminally ill patients.

When she recognises that patients in her care are dying, she ensures that their treatment is taken over by a full time colleague, introducing those patients to the doctor concerned. This is especially important in her practice as patients are usually only seen by the doctor with whom they are registered.

She has attended several courses and the notes that she has made at the time shows that she has learnt salient points from these and has not just attended. When I have met her on such courses, she has always been concentrating and makes useful contributions to any discussion. She always asks questions when she wishes to clarify any point.

She works well with her colleagues and patients as shown by the testimonials in her portfolio. Her practice partners are supportive and are working together as a team under her leadership - something that has not always happened in the past with previous senior partners. She is keen to ensure that this team working continues in the future.

In summary, she showed herself to be a good, caring and competent doctor. I feel that she is a safe doctor and have no doubts of her ability to continue to practice good medicine.

Yours sincerely
Melvyn Beale

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