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Operation Rochester

You will recall that you wrote on 2 July 2004 following our telephone conversation.

Since your letter, our colleagues have continued to cooperate in relation to our respective, but complementary, responsibilities. I am grateful for the contribution that you and your colleagues have made to trying to find a way forward.

The position is that our Preliminary Proceedings Committee has referred Dr Jane Barton to the Professional Conduct Committee in relation to heads of charge derived from five cases. The PPC made that decision on 29 August 2002. On 2 December 2002, Detective Inspector Nigel Niven wrote on behalf of Detective Chief Superintendent Steve Watts to Field Fisher Waterhouse, our solicitors, who were investigating the allegations against Dr Barton on our behalf at that time. DI Niven asked us not to proceed with the PCC hearing until further notice.

Some two years on we need to take stock and to consider what options might be available to us.

I wonder whether it would be helpful to arrange a high-level meeting at which we could explore the current position with you, with a view to agreeing how next to proceed. My colleagues and I would be willing to come to Southampton. Alternatively, we would be glad to welcome you here if that would be more convenient..

I look forward to hearing from you.