



# Other Document Form

MC7

Number: D1960

Title COY LETTER C/CONST TO FAMILIES POST INQUIRIES 3/2/09  
(Include source and any document number if relevant)

Receivers instructions urgent action Yes / No \_\_\_\_\_

Document registered / indexed as indicated

No(s) of actions raised

Statement readers instructions

Indexed as indicated

No(s) of actions raised

Examined - further action to be taken

Further action no(s)

When satisfied all action raised, Office Manager to endorse other Document Master Form.

Receiver	
Code A	
Statement reader	
Indexer	
O/M	SIO
Indexer	

Hampshire Constabulary  
Police Headquarters  
West Hill  
WINCHESTER  
Hampshire  
SO22 5DB

Tel: 0845 0454545

Fax: 01962 871204

**Alex Marshall QPM**  
**Chief Constable**

Your ref:

Our ref: CC/smg  
2009

3 September

Dear

**Operation Rochester - Investigation into deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital**

I wanted to write to you personally to explain my decision making in respect of the potential for further investigations by Hampshire Constabulary into the deaths of patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital, following the recent inquests held in Portsmouth and the General Medical Council Fitness to Practice Hearing regarding Dr Jane Barton.

In December 2006 the Crown Prosecution Service concluded that in respect of each of the cases submitted to them there was insufficient evidence to support a prosecution in respect of any case, for any criminal offence. This was the culmination of three separate investigations by Hampshire Constabulary into the circumstances of the deaths between 1998 and 2006.

On conclusion of the investigation, the papers were passed to Her Majesty's Coroner and regulatory bodies such as the General Medical Council & Nursing and Midwifery Council for consideration.

The Coroner elected to hold ten inquests simultaneously in the presence of a jury in March and April this year. The verdicts identified that each person died of natural causes, but in some cases the administration of opiate medication may have had more than a negligible or minimal contribution to the death.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> August the General Medical Council concluded its factual findings regarding a Fitness to Practice hearing in respect of Dr Jane Barton. I have requested copies of the transcripts of that hearing and officers connected with the investigation will review the material. It is my intention to invite the Crown Prosecution Service to consider any new information that may have arisen from either the inquests or the regulatory hearings that could have a bearing on potential criminal proceedings.

Yours sincerely

**Code A**

**Alex Marshall**  
**Chief Constable**