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

Your ref:

Our ref: CC/KB/smg/951.09

11 November 2009

**Mrs Gillian Mackenzie**

**Code A**

Dear Mrs Mackenzie

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

I am writing on behalf of the Chief Constable to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 26 October 2009 and received in this office on the 2 November 2009.

I would like to reassure you and confirm that Mr Marshall has had sight of your letters.

The current position with this case is as follows. The transcripts and evidence presented during the Coroner's inquests held in Portsmouth earlier this year together with the transcripts from the recent Fitness to Practice hearing conducted by the General Medical Council are currently being reviewed by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Your letter will be, as directed by Mr Marshall, forwarded to Detective Inspector David Grocott, the Senior Investigating Officer in charge of Operation Rochester.

However, until such time as the review of this information has been completed it would be inappropriate to comment on individual aspects of the case.

Yours sincerely

**Inspector Kevin Baxman**  
**Staff Officer to Alex Marshall**  
**Chief Constable**

As per email. IC B

Chief Constable Alex Marshall  
 Hampshire Constabulary  
 Police HQ West Hill  
 Winchester  
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2 - NOV 2009  
 951/09  
 Chief Constable's Office

Code A

26.10.09.

Dear Chief Constable Marshall

Operation Rochester – Investigation into deaths at Gosport Memorial Hospital  
 Mrs. Gladys Richards decd. Next of kin Mrs. Gillian Mackenzie

Upon receipt of Inspector Kevin Baxman's letter 15 October, I telephoned Inspector David Grocott who informed me that he was studying the transcript of the GMC case (as I am) concentrating on the evidence given by Dr. Barton under oath to establish whether there was a question of perjury. My impression was that this was his only interest and follows the pattern over eleven years in the Richards case ( and possibly others ) of building the investigation around Dr. Barton only.

You will be aware that the GMC conclusions on the Richards case are the same as the other eleven cases. In one instance a complainant was never given the opportunity to provide a statement to the Police – what happened to the other 80 families who came forward let alone any investigation into the 456 death certificates signed by Dr. Barton between 1995 and 2000 out of a total of 954 for the whole hospital ? It is difficult to accept that there were only 12 cases worthy of a hearing out of the 92.

There has been a marked reluctance by the Police in the Richards case to emphasise the part played by Philip Beed and other nurses on Daedelus Ward particularly since the first two investigations carried out by Gosport Police Officers between October 98 and February 99 were the subject of formal complaints upheld by the PCA. A further formal complaint involving John James made in 2001 was also upheld by the PCA and IPCC. There was never an explanation why it took years instead of months for that conclusion to be reached after John James had been promoted and had left the Hampshire Constabulary.

The Williams investigation 2003 – 2006 was instigated at the “ suggestions” of Liam Donaldson and Alan Milburn following the publication of the CHI Report in July 2002 and I have no doubt that letters sent to various legal and political personalities by families concerned also played a part together with Press coverage. In addition the 1991 Report had been brought to the attention of the Police by nurse in 2002. I had already brought this matter to the attention of Ray Burt in 2001 due to a telephone call from a journalist from the Portsmouth News. (Jonathan Carter ) Ray Burt informed Steve Watts which resulted in Carter being interviewed and given a Press statement which resulted in publicity for the first time. Carter was never questioned about the Nurse who had contacted him or for that matter how he knew about the Richards case. It was not until 2002 that the Nurse approached the authorities again when it was announced that Prof. Baker and Robert Forrest ( of Shipman fame ) were to be involved. This followed shortly after Ian Readhead had called a meeting with the 11 – 15 families at Fareham Station. During that meeting he stated he did not want any more questions from me and that he would not spend a further penny or a minute of police time on the cases. ( 11 September 2002)

The Richards case was not submitted to the CPS in 2006 nor was a request made for an inquest. Due to my own efforts, backed by Bindmans (Solicitors involved with the Adomoko case), Mr. Horsley submitted an application to Jack Straw and an inquest was granted in January 2009. There was a further delay when Mr. Bradley declined to hear the case with the other ten at Portsmouth March 2009 informing me in a telephone call that the case was "exceptional" and he was passing it to the Senior Coroner Mr. Horsley. As I was prepared to take the case myself with no experience and little knowledge of the protocol and procedure in a Coroner's Court, Mr. Horsley backed my application for exceptional funding due to my financial circumstances. The application was made through Blake Laphorn and the LSC promptly "lost" the papers. Blake Laphorn applied again - to date there has been no ruling.

The GMC who had delayed the hearing of the Richards case together with those of Farthing (Brian Cunningham) Page (Eva Page) Wilson (Robert Wilson) Jackson (Mrs. Wilkie) then decided to go ahead with their case before the Richards inquest. I refused to participate. It is usual for an inquest to take priority. Nevertheless the GMC hearing has come to the same conclusion in all 12 cases. The Richards inquest is now delayed due to Police scrutiny of the GMC transcript. In the meantime Blake Laphorn have been unable to obtain the disclosures for the inquest. An application was made for further interviews with Paul Close CPS for three of the cases which was granted but the CPS is reticent to allow an interview for me. Is it little wonder that I am concerned at the way my case has been handled by all involved including the police and CPS at Basingstoke and London ( How did Basingstoke come to a conclusion that Dr. Lord provided an independent opinion when she was the Consultant above Dr. Barton.)

The further emphasis on Barton as indicated by Inspector Grocott only gives me the impression that all is not well in the state of Denmark. I am aware that some of the papers were not sent to the GMC - did this also apply to the statements taken from Haslar staff - were all these papers sent to the CPS? All in all I am not happy with the situation and I shall continue my efforts to obtain justice for all the families involved.

I would appreciate your personal attention to this matter and confirmation that you did at least read my letter of the 8 October. Further police scrutiny should be given to the nurses participation. I am extremely annoyed with the stupid and defamatory evidence /statement given by Nurse Couchman. The Meeting which took place at Chichester some weeks after my Mother's death was that of the local branch of the Scientific and Medical Network of which I was a member. I did not invite Couchman and it is obvious that the matters discussed were totally beyond her comprehension. It had nothing to do with spiritualism. The Chairman of the Council was Prof. Peter Fenwick who introduced me to the Network. He was not only a Consultant Neuropsychiatrist at the Maudesley Hospital but also a Consultant at Broadmoor. I have never been an inmate at Broadmoor or a psychiatric hospital. I have an interest in psychiatry, brain function, law, philosophy etc. At one time I was able to help in a minor way through television appearances with some research of a scientific and medical nature for Prof. Fenwick. I have many academic interests - at the present time attending lectures given by a nuclear physicist who was involved in research projects for the British and American governments - No! I am not intending to go to Iran which I visited during the 50's - 60's. I am also attending meetings on religious pluralism and science - No! I am not entering the Church. I attend many other lectures and functions - which no doubt are outwith the experience of the police or the general public in Gosport. In addition Couchman has stated I gave away some of my Mother's possessions - she apparently knows my sister well who was the sole executor. Her evidence is absolute nonsense. I find it odd as I was

questioned about this by the GMC solicitors last year and knowing that I had refused to be a witness this year they still put forward Couchman's evidence about me – were they trying to make me out to be an absolute “nutter” knowing I could not be questioned about it at the hearing ? Nothing would surprise me.

I hope you can reassure me that Inspector Grocott's scrutiny of the GMC transcript will cover everything to bring this eleven year investigation to the Criminal Court.

Yours sincerely

**Code A**

Gillian M. Mackenzie