

**Williams, David M**

**From:** Williams, David M  
**Sent:** 15 November 2004 16:53  
**To:** Code A  
**Cc:** Niven, Nigel  
**Subject:** OP ROCHESTER update..15/11..

SW..

Trust all is well..

OP ROCHESTER continues to progress..

Geriatrician Dr BLACK has been sent case number 5 CUNNINGHAM, and will have completed his initial assessments by Christmas if he continues at the same pace.

Palliative Care DR WILCOCKS is slower.. I have asked Dave GROCOTT to chase him up, given that he has previously agreed that he will complete the first five cases by Christmas.

Jane BARTON returns from her leave at the end of this week so we expect to hear from her and Ian BARKER soon re an interview date in respect of the PITTOCK case. Disclosure of papers was made during her last interviews.

We have now received a request from the SHA (Simon TANNER director of public health) for full information about the progress of the investigation in respect of individual cases, including the details of all patients, and the outcome of the review in terms of closure or onward referral. I had previously asked for this request to be made in writing.

Dr TANNER asks for this information 'in the ongoing interests of patient safety and clinical governance.' he assures that it would be treated in the strictest confidence.

My observation is that such information, in detail may be subject of civil litigation between Anne Alexanders clients and the Healthcare trust to which of course the SHA have an interest.

However, the names of the cases and outcome in general have or are about to be disclosed to Anne Alexander and family group members in respect of category 2 and 3 cases, so it seems to me that we would not have a problem in revealing those names and categories to the SHA, as well as Mathew LOHNS feedback.. The families will have received this.. This approach would ensure equality of arms.. I will run this past the CPS and perhaps ask the force solicitor to ask Counsel to review the position again given that we have moved on.. What do you think?..

We have recently recovered from the CHI a F@GHT a document that basically authorises double doses of diamorphine to be written up in advance on cases of acute pain.. This may explain some of the unusual prescribing practices undertaken by DR BARTON..

I can confirm as per our discussion last week that we do have a copy of the internal Healthcare Trust hearing in respect of the death of DEVINE (as referred to in Dr BARTONS statement..)

Mathew LOHN has completed his review of the 2's.. We expect his reports this week... We can then consider the release of this information to the families, probably along the same lines as before using the same text which was pretty well received by all and only attracted half a dozen or so minor queries all of which we were able to answer..

I will consider a media release to follow this information being passed to FGM's, incorporating the views of the Healthcare Trust and the SHA which I will forward for your final approval. Mathew has raised further issues in respect of 3 category 2 cases (after indicating that there were not any) the cases of Phylis and Frank HORN and Catherine ASKELL.. Which we may need to refer finally back to the KCT (I would suggest in writing) for final resolution.. I will let you know what the issues are when I have Mathews report..

Finally please find attached a mail from Mathew in respect of the RICHARDS case.. Again we await his full report on this to consider final determination.. He suggests