

Other Document Form

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Title LETTER FROM SIO TO MRS MACKENZIE 18/1/05

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Further actions no(s)

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Code A

O/M	SIO

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Your Ref.

18th January 2005

Mrs G.M. MacKenzie

Code A

Dear Mrs Mackenzie,

I was disappointed to recently hear that you had cancelled your appointment to meet with your dedicated Family Liaison Officer, DC Kathryn Robinson who was to take evidence from you in respect of your concerns surrounding the conduct of Dr Lord in terms of the care afforded to your mother prior to her death at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

I understand that you wished to highlight in particular a directive sent by Dr Lord following your mothers death regarding procedures surrounding patients suffering fractures or dislocation and its correlation with the levels of pain relief administered to your mother.

I of course, have a copy of that directive, dated 20th December 1998, a copy of your letter to Chief Executive Mr Millett raising supplementary issues to the letter and a copy of his detailed response.

You have previously raised concerns to DC Robinson regarding Dr Lord's independent medical report in particular the recorded sequencing of drug administration (Oramorph) to your mother.

I understand that it was not only your wish to tape record the officer whilst she took your witness statement but that you indicated that the statement could take up to 2 weeks given the depth of your concerns.

Furthermore, I understand that your conversation with the officer did not remain cordial and that you (not for the first time) questioned the intelligence/capability of the officer to properly document your concerns.

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Whilst I am sorry that you feel the need to tape record conversations with my officers in particular the taking of your witness statement, I as the Senior Investigating Officer will decide how witness evidence is taken, and on this occasion consistent with every case of accepting witness evidence since Operation Rochester commenced in September 2002, your evidence will be taken in written form. I would be interested to hear your rationale for tape recording officers discussions with you.

May I clarify my position as set out in my letter to you of August 2004. DC Robinson is your dedicated Family Liaison Officer, and all contact in respect of the investigation into your mothers death will be made through her. The officer is a highly regarded competent professional who is perfectly placed to take your evidence. As previously requested please desist from contact with other officers who do not have a detailed knowledge of your mothers case.

DC Robinson is one of a team of Hampshire Detectives conducting a significant investigation into the deaths of patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital, an investigation, which at this point in time has entered a critical and challenging phase particularly around the identified priority cases.

I have previously informed you that the quality assurance process in respect of the multidisciplinary medical team findings has determined that the investigation into your mother's death will be considered by newly commissioned experts to establish whether or not the case should be assessed and dealt with as a category three.

However, these experts are also commissioned to complete evidential assessments around other priority cases that we are looking to forward to the CPS for their consideration.

The experts will review your case at a time appropriate to them. Whilst I sympathise with what you may perceive as delay, it is important for the final tier of evidential experts to be allowed time to consider and produce their evidence, upon which any prosecution will ultimately stand or fall.

Should you wish to reconsider the issue of making a statement to DC Robinson, please contact her direct to arrange a mutually convenient date and venue. If not, you may wish to articulate concerns of evidence not previously raised in your witness statement by way of formal letter so that experts considering the case have regard to all relevant issues.

Yours sincerely,

David Williams
Senior Investigating Officer