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Title COPY LETTER TO COLONEL M. HORSLEY FROM DIVISION 10/1/05.
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10th January 2005

Mr D Horsley
H.M Coroner
Room T20, Guildhall
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth, PO1 2AJ

Dear Mr Horsley

Re: **Operation Rochester – Investigation into deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital**

I write further to the above matter. You will be aware that during 2004 we shared correspondence and met to discuss the process of our investigation. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a current update.

As you will recall, we are investigating the deaths of 90 patients at the GWMH. This number has risen from 88 to take account of 2 cases that were belatedly brought to our attention. You will further recall that to assist us in this investigation, we commissioned a team of clinical experts to review the medical records and to provide us with an analysis and categorisation of treatment.

As I have indicated previously, the categorisation fell into 3 sections. The treatment of patients that fell into category 1 was considered to be acceptable. The treatment of patients that fell into category 2 was considered to be sub optimal but did not present evidence of unlawful criminal activity. Category 3 cases were considered to warrant further detailed investigation to determine whether unlawful criminal activity could be identified.

To date, we have written to all of those patient families who fell into category 1 and notified them of the findings. In addition, we have now written to 47 of the category 2 patient families and notified them of the outcome of their particular case. A small number of category 2 cases remain. This is due to the fact that the cases came to our investigation late and are still undergoing the investigative

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process or because their cases present features that warrant additional clinical analysis

We have now served on the General Medical Council (GMC) and the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) a total of 47 of the category 2 cases. Other cases will undoubtedly also be served on the GMC and the NMC. The actual figure will depend on the outcome of the above work presently being conducted.

I have enclosed as an appendix a copy of the cases sent to these organisations thus far.

As you know, Steve Watts has been the Senior Investigation Officer (SIO) in charge of this enquiry. Mr Watts has recently been promoted to Assistant Chief Constable in charge of police operations. Consequently, Detective Superintendent David Williams will become the SIO of Operation Rochester in his place.

I hope the above information and enclosed appendix is of some use to you. Should you require any further information or have any query regarding this investigation, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above address. Additionally, should you wish, David and I would be happy to meet with you to discuss this case further.

Yours sincerely /

Code A

Nigel Niven
Deputy SIO
Operation Rochester