



HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY

Paul R. Kernaghan QPM LL.B MA DPM MCIPD
Chief Constable

Fareham Police Station
Quay Street
Fareham
Hampshire
P016 ONA

Our Ref. Op Rochester

Tel. 0845 0454545
Fax. 023 92891663

Your Ref.

6th September 2004

Code A

Code A

Dear Mr J **Code A**

I write to inform you of the outcome of the police investigation into the death of Victor Abbatt.

This case in terms of potential negligence has been fully assessed by a panel of medical experts in Toxicology, Palliative Care, Geriatrics, General Medicine and Nursing and their assessment in terms of the quality of care delivered to patients prior to death has been further reviewed by a medical/legal lawyer who has independently agreed with the findings of the panel of experts. The concerns raised by family group members have been considered during this process.

This case is one of a number of category 2 cases which have been identified as instances where the treatment delivered to the patient was 'sub-optimal'. However this case has not been assessed as 'gross negligence to criminal standard' thereby justifying further criminal investigation. It follows that there is no basis upon which to continue a criminal investigation into this case.

The General Medical Council have expressed a wish to review the material in respect of this case enabling them to consider the issue of ongoing registration of relevant Healthcare Professionals. The Crown Prosecution Service views have been sought regarding disclosure of this information to the GMC, and subject to certain conditions the CPS have agreed that disclosure of material relating to this case will not prejudice the ongoing police investigation or subsequent criminal proceedings should they arise as a consequence of the investigation.

The Hampshire Constabulary and the GMC consider that there is a clear public interest in allowing the disclosure process to now take place.

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It is not proposed to release the aforementioned information to the media given the potential to adversely affect the fairness of ongoing criminal proceedings. Please be mindful of this approach in the event of any personal media contact.

Please find attached a 'Consent to Supply information to the GMC document'. May I ask you to sign and return it to Hampshire police in the enclosed stamped addressed envelope as soon as possible, enabling the General Medical Counsel to commence their review of the relevant material.

Thank you for your patience and support throughout our investigation.

Yours sincerely,

David Williams
Detective Superintendent



Written Consent re Disclosure of Medical Records

I hereby authorise the Hampshire Constabulary to disclose:-

- 1) Medical notes
- 2) Any other relevant information

that has been obtained during the course of the Police investigation to recognised official regulatory bodies. I understand that this information will only be disclosed if it may be of use to any subsequent investigation.

I further authorise the Police to disclose this information to any person acting on behalf of any official regulatory body.

As next of kin I authorise the Police to make disclosure in respect of:-

Mr/Mrs/Ms.....

(Please print full name of family member)

.....

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Signed

Dated

.....

Print name