

## HAMPSHIRE Constabulary

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

> Fratton Police Station Kingston Crescent North End Portsmouth Hampshire PO2 8BU

Our Ref. DI 7503 PJJS

Your Ref. Mr. J. Graham

Tel . 0845 045 45 45 Direct Dial 023 92891531 Fax . 023 92891504

12/06/00

Mr. Jim Graham Saulet and Co. Solicitors, 15/16, Hampshire Terrace, Portsmouth, PO1 2QF

Dear Mr. Graham,

## The Interviewing of Key Nursing Staff - Gosport War Memorial Hospital

I write to you in connection with the telephone conversation with earlier today, in order that our position is clarified.

The investigation into the death of Mrs. Gladys Mable Richards is one that centres on her treatment at Gosport War Memorial Hospital, between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of August 1998.

The potential offence under investigation is one of manslaughter (unlawful killing by staff viz. 'duty of care').

I apologise for any earlier misunderstanding, but I feel that in the interests of both your clients and justice that all police interviews with relevant staff should be conducted under caution and recorded on tape at a designated police station. I trust that appointments made to date can be honoured in this redefined way.

The interviewing officers will be DC Code A both whom can be contacted in the incident room (Operation Rochester) on 0845 0454545 (general number - *then please ask for the incident room*).

We will provide you where possible with a pre-interview disclosure package in order that you can be better prepared to advise your client.

It is not our intention to arrest your client nor to seek to put them under any pressure but to seek the truth and an account of their knowledge and involvement with this case.

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I have enclosed with this letter an agreed opening for any future interviews with the staff concerned, I hope you find this helpful.

I will co-ordinating the inquiry day to day and can be contacted directly on 02392 891531.

Once we have formulated a comprehensive list of staff to be interviewed **Code A** and **Code A** will contact you.

Yours sincerely,

**Pete Shand** Detective Inspector 7503