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Your ref:

Our ref: ACC SO/SW/

18th December 2006

Code A

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Re - Operation Rochester. Investigation into the death of Elsie Hester LAVENDER At Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

I write to inform you that Hampshire Constabulary detectives have completed their criminal investigation into the deaths of 92 patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital between 1990 and 2002.

The investigation culminated with ten full files of evidence being considered by the Crown Prosecution Service between December 2004 and December 2006 following a four year police investigation.

The evidence of family members and hundreds of healthcare staff was taken during the extensive police investigation and considered by the CPS along with the opinion of independent medical experts.

Eighty two of the cases had previously failed to meet the standard of evidence required to justify a full criminal investigation. However detailed files in respect of these matters were forwarded to the General Medical Council and Nursing and Midwifery counsel for their consideration.

The final ten cases including the death of your loved one Elsie, were subject of the most demanding and intense investigation to ensure that the CPS had all possible evidence upon which to consider whether criminal proceedings should follow.

The Crown Prosecution Service have announced following careful consideration that negligence could not be proven to a criminal standard and that there was no realistic prospect of conviction

of healthcare staff. As a consequence of this decision I am bound to inform you that there will be no further criminal investigation in respect of the standard of care afforded to Mrs.Lavender

I recognise and acknowledge the distress that this investigation must have caused family group members, it is my genuine hope that the extensive nature of the investigation and the findings of the CPS can bring some closure to the loss of your loved one.

You may of course feel disappointed by the outcome, but I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that the investigation was very thorough and enabled CPS and counsel to conduct a proper review of the evidence, furthermore counsel has confirmed that there are no further avenues for police investigation. The Senior Investigating Officer, Detective Superintendent David Williams will be happy to meet with you to discuss the investigative strategy should you wish. It may be possible for a representative of the Crown Prosecution Service also to meet with you and explain their rationale for the decision as to proceedings. Members of the investigation team will contact you in the new year to ascertain whether you would want such a meeting to take place.

I will be meeting healthcare stakeholders in particular the General Medical Council, Nursing and Midwifery Council and H.M.Coroner to determine whether issues in respect of the deaths and standard of care require further work and assessment by those parties.

In pursuance of the above may I ask that you sign the attached 'consent to release information form' and return to the Operation ROCHESTER team in the stamped addressed envelope provided.

As we enter the new year you will have the opportunity to discuss the outcome with both the police and CPS and I would hope to be able to inform you of the direction of enquiry in terms of other agencies although we will from that point be requesting that agencies liaise with you direct.

Finally may I offer my heartfelt condolences for your loss.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Chief Constable 'Specialist Operations'