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Code A

From:	Watts, Steve
Sent:	28 April 2003 14:32
To:	Betts, Alan; Lane, Michael
Cc:	Duncan, Robert; Dinnell, Shirley; Williams, David (DCI)
Subject:	Op Rochester Resources
Follow Up Flag:	No Response Necessary
Flag Status:	Flagged

I have this weekend been attending with the operation Rochester team a meeting with the team of clinical experts.

In doing so I have reviewed the lines of enquiry and actions that are required, in particular there is a need in the next 6 weeks to interview 300+ medical staff connected with Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

The Rochester team is as you know relatively small and I am doing my best to keep it so. For this reason, I think that I now have to ask you all to consider very carefully before any Rochester staff are abstracted to other enquiries, and I would be grateful if before doing so you could discuss with me.

I do recognise that there may be occasions when there will be a need to abstract to service an unexpected demand, but in order that I can write up my policy appropriately, I do need to be part of the process.

If members of the Rochester team are deployed on other enquiries, it would be helpful if they were not allocated to long-term roles so that they may return to Rochester at the earliest opportunity.

I am grateful for your support here, I do understand your problems, and I am not trying to put an obstacle in the way, but I can foresee me being required to defend an abuse argument in the future and in order to do so I need to be a part of the decision to abstract from Rochester.

Regards SW