



HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY

MEMORANDUM

From : **DCC** To : **Ch Supt STEVENS**

Ext. No. :

Our Ref. :

Your Ref. : **Op Rochester**

Date : **06 October 2004**

Derek,

Thank you for the work you have done on this matter. I sense that we have to be extremely careful in that Mrs Mackenzie is making an allegation that a crime has been committed by her sister and as such we have to comply with the National Crime Recording Standards, subject to there being justifiable evidence that Mrs Lack has in fact a view about her mothers death, which is consistent with the allegation made by Mrs Mackenzie.

In my opinion it is necessary for us to do several things. Firstly I think that we should liaise with the coroner officer on the basis that what is being suggested here is that Mrs Lack knew something which she did not reveal to the coroner, who of course made the judgment on cause of death. I feel that we should try and retrieve her original statement and see what it actually stated. I am not prepared to conduct a crime investigation on the back of Mrs Mackenzie simply not accepting the coroner and doctors view on the cause of death. I sense that the work being done by the Rochester team will of course expedite this matter. What Mrs Lack may or may not have believed as a nurse may not be relevant into the causation of death, I sense that Mrs Mackenzie is elevating the views held by Mrs Lack as being superior to those of the doctors and the corner.

This does not in fact help us in the causational link between the use of Diamorphine and the cause of death and certainly the recent correspondence that I have read on this matter would seem to indicate that all of the patients were terminally ill and although the use of Diamorphine may have shortened their life expectancy it may only have been on a matter of days.

I suspect we will need to liaise closely with Acting Superintendent Williams on this matter to ensure that we do not approach upon their investigation. Please can you discuss with me.

Code A

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Deputy Chief Constable.

HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY
HEADQUARTERS
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