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Miss Emily Yeats
Code A

**RECORDED
DELIVERY**

03 April 2003

Mr Duncan Gere
Police Complaints Authority
10 Great George Street
LONDON
SW1P 3AE

15 APR 2003
AUTHORITY

Dear Mr Sir

RE: Complaint Against Superintendent John James Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

I am writing to you today regarding our formal complaint against Superintendent John James from Hampshire Constabulary. You may already be aware of this complaint, as I have contacted you in the past, in the main through copies of letters sent to the Constabulary and to the Attorney General.

I received a telephone call from Chief Superintendent Derrick Stevens from Hampshire's Professional Standards Department on Tuesday 1st April. During this call he advised me that Assistant Chief Constable Jacobs has completed his report regarding our formal complaint and had sent his recommendations to yourselves at the PCA. He advised me that the recommendations will now be "rubber stamped" by the Authority and that I will be written to in due course by the PCA to advise of the outcome of our complaint.

However, Mr Stevens did advise me during the call that the force's recommendations are for Mr James to receive "Operational Advice". I am appalled that after waiting almost a YEAR (a long time over the 120 days recommended for formal complaints) for this complaint to be dealt with and tolerating the Constabulary's delay tactics, lack of communication and general unwillingness to take this complaint seriously, the force is only recommending "Operational Advice". It is a mockery of the situation we have been forced to contend with and the trauma my family has suffered as a result of Mr James attitude and failure to investigate our allegations.

I am writing to you now to appeal to you to look at this case once again before agreeing to the recommendations put forward by the Constabulary. Mr James failed to investigate our serious allegations regarding the circumstances my Grandmother's death. He failed to make contact with us to find out what our concerns were and because of this we have been placed under undue stress by Mr James's handling of this case. How can the Force justify this lack of action in light of the seriousness of our allegations and in light of the fact that Mr James was well aware of other people's allegations. This was too serious a matter to ignore. Additionally, new documents came to light in September of last year which would appear to back our concerns about what was happening at the hospital. Although an investigation is now taking place if Mr James had investigated this properly in the first place then these issues

would have been brought to light sooner. The fact that an investigation is now underway only highlights the need for Mr James to have taken action at the time.

I was further appalled that AFTER our formal complaint was received by the Constabulary and after Chief Superintendent Clacher had begun his investigation into our complaints, Superintendent James received a promotion. I found this move an insult and I cannot believe that our formal complaint was being taken so lightly. I do not feel that the number of complaints outstanding against this one officer should warrant him being promoted when there were so many unresolved issues regarding this man's integrity.

I am also led to believe that Mr James took a year off prior to taking over this case, during which time he is alleged to have set up a Care Home for disabled children. I have serious concerns about this as it involves a conflict of interest, particularly if Mr James is liasing on a regular basis with members of Local NHS Trusts or members of the medical establishment. Nobody from the Force has alleviated our concerns about this matter.

For the reasons outlined above I am strongly against this proposed course of action. Mr James is a senior police officer whose daily role involves dealing with cases of a serious nature. Indeed one who 'deserved' a promotion. Operational Advice is what I would have expected for a Police Constable not a Chief Superintendent. In light of the seriousness of this matter I believe that the most appropriate course of disciplinary action should be for Mr James to be demoted from the rank he was at when he started this investigation. Whilst, I do not believe he should lose his job, I feel very strongly that appropriate action must be taken. I am horrified that we are still having to fight for our complaint to be taken seriously.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

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Miss Emily Yeats

CC. Rt. Hon. David Blunkett, Home Secretary.