



POLICE COMPLAINTS AUTHORITY

DCC I. Readhead
Hampshire Constabulary
Police Headquarters
DX 132262
Winchester 7

Your reference D1/MD/SMc/P.174/02

Our Reference COM 2003/116/2112

Date 19 June 2003

Private Line

Code A

Dear Mr Readhead,

COMPLAINTS RELATING TO THE GOSPORT WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
INVESTIGATION.

Thank you for your memorandum of 26 March 2003. I have now had the opportunity to read the extensive documentation supplied, including the reports of ACC Jacobs and Chief Superintendent Clacher, the latter dated 21 July 2002.

I do not feel I am in a position to finalise the complaint and respond to the complainants at this stage. Having read all the documentation, there are a sizeable number of issues that appear to remain unresolved. The issues themselves are well-flagged in CS Clacher's report, but do not appear to have been answered in the remaining documentation supplied. I have set out these issues in brief on the attached sheet.

However, I would encourage you strongly to consider again CS Clacher's recommendations at page 25 of his report, 13.1, where he suggests that;

- A Senior Investigating Officer is appointed from an outside force to investigate fully the professional standards issues raised.
- An outside force be invited to review the handling and decision making processes in the Richards case as well as the subsequent matters reported to the Constabulary in April 2001.

I look forward to discussing this further with you. In the meantime, I am writing to the families involved to explain that I have received your report.

You should also be aware that I have received some correspondence from Miss Yeats, a copy of which I enclose. You will see that she appears to have spoken to Chief Superintendent Stevens. The contents of this letter also give me some cause for concern and I would also welcome the opportunity to discuss this further.

Finally, could you please confirm whether or not the families have yet received copies of the medical reports. It is my understanding from p24 of CS Clacher's report that the force would not oppose an application for a court order in respect of these reports and I would be interested to know whether the families are aware of this.

Yours sincerely

Code A

Alison MacDougall
Authority Member

Summary of Issues raised in CS Clacher's Report of 21 July 2002

- Clarification of responsibility for final decision to cease police enquiries (point 6.6). Also at point 11.10, was this the correct decision
 - All issues raised at p10, points 2-8. The issue of the lack of FLO appointment has already been addressed.
 - Professor Livesley's faxed response of 10 October 2001 (point 7.5)
 - Point 8.2 on p12 re lack of submission of the medical reports prepared by Professor Ford and Doctor Mundy to CPS
 - All of the issues raised under 10 General Conduct of Operation Rochester pps17-19
- lack of challenge to CPS
 - - ref to Prof L's successful performance in court in cases where his views had been similarly unequivocal
 - Impact of Ford and Mundy reports on clinical judgment
 - Lack of relatives' evidence
 - Questionable interpretation of importance of statistical analysis in the Shipman case
 - Over-emphasis on "public re-assurance"
 - Point 11 Apparent lack of consideration of motive
 - The Case to Answer – all issues at 12