

A WMH report,

Psd -

**Readhead, Ian**

**From:** Watts, Steve  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 24, 2002 1:13 PM  
**To:** Readhead, Ian  
**Subject:** FW: Op Rochester

File.  
 Report writer  
 Memo. .  
 please.

Sir,

Policy notes arising from a meeting held re Gosport WMH. You will note in the penultimate paragraph that I will need to ask you to speak with the NHS contacts.

I will arrange to pop down in the next couple of days to discuss.

Regards  
 SW

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Watts, Steve  
**Sent:** 24 October 2002 13:11  
**To:** Duncan, Robert; Niven, Nigel; Wise, Mark  
**Subject:** Op Rochester

HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY  
 HEADQUARTERS  
 14 NOV 2002  
 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Gentlemen,

Thank you for our meeting this morning in respect of the ongoing issues regarding Op Rochester.

I am pleased to note that the lines of enquiry raised are progressing well and that the last witness in respect of the new papers will be interviewed on 7/11/02.

1. I note that approx 10 persons contacted us thru NHS Direct following the last media release. I agree that at this stage Officers visit those people and note their concerns.
  2. Mark advised that we have an indication from those people with whom he had contact as to their concerns, Mark will continue contact with those people.
  3. There was a small number of people, however who have contacted Mr Readhead direct whom we have not spoken to.
- A - Mark Wise to make contact with those relatives and advise as to the conduct of the enquiry, to note their concerns and pass back to the MIR**
4. Mark also indicated that a number of relatives have formed an action group and are represented by a Solicitor Ann ALEXANDER, it is understood that she was involved in the families of the Shipman enquiry and thus has experience of medical negligence issues.
- A - Mark Wise to arrange a meeting with Ms ALEXANDER to include himself, DCS WATTS and preferably both DCI DUNCAN and DI NIVEN, or at least one of them. This meeting's objective to explain the conduct of this phase of the enquiry.**
5. In discussion it was agreed that we are reaching the end of the first phase of this investigation, the provenance of the new papers having been proved, and witnesses named therein having been interviewed. Before moving on to interview others including Mr PIPER & Mr HORN, it is important to develop a robust strategy based upon the best legal and scientific advice to that end, the following is proposed;

**A - DCS WATTS, DCI DUNCAN & DI NIVEN to meet with;**

- a) Prof BAKER - carrying out the statistical analysis of death rates at the request of the Chief Medical Officer-Objective; to ascertain his methodology and the implications for the investigation of the range of possible results of his examination.
- b) Mr Paul Close CPS - Objective; to discuss the implications of various investigative strategies and to discuss sources of best evidence, together with the implications for the potential of criminal prosecutions.

**c) Prof Forrest - NCOF expert in Forensic medicine - Objective to discuss opportunities for gathering best evidence.**

**All above to be achieved if possible by the end of November 2002.**

6. Following the above we will be in a position to consider additional lines of enquiry which may include interviewing all relatives who express concern and analysing the relevant medical records. It may alternatively or additionally be necessary to make a scientifically valid random selection of patients within defined parameters. At that time a decision will be taken as to the interview of Mr PIPER & Mr HORN and any necessity to re interview any person who has thus far been interviewed under caution.

**A - DCC Mr READHEAD in his position as 'Gold' will be requested to inform Mr TANNER & Mr CRUDDACE of the NHS of the above.**

Thank you for your hard work thus far.

Regards  
SW