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11 July 2002

**First Class Post**

Mr C R S Farthing

**Code A**

**GENERAL  
MEDICAL  
COUNCIL**

*Protecting patients,  
guiding doctors*

Dear Mr Farthing

**Gosport War Memorial Hospital**

I write further to your letter of 28 June 2002 regarding the death of your step father, Arthur Cunningham.

As you may be aware, following the conclusion of their investigation, Hampshire Constabulary forwarded their case papers to the GMC for us to consider whether action under our fitness to practise procedures was warranted against any individual doctors.

I am now able to confirm that, as a result of information received about Mr Cunningham's clinical management, a case against Dr Jane Barton is scheduled to be considered on 29 - 30 August 2002 at a meeting of the Council's Preliminary Proceedings Committee. It will be for that Committee to decide whether the doctor should be referred to the Professional Conduct Committee on a charge of serious professional misconduct.

Should the Committee decide that the case raises no issue of serious professional misconduct, they may conclude the matter by issuing a warning or advisory letter to the doctor about her future conduct, or decide to take no action. Please note that the relevant Trusts and Health Authorities have also been notified. We will write to you again after the Committee meeting to inform you of our decision.

As the Council's deliberations at this stage of our procedures is private, I would ask you not to disclose this information to any other persons.

**Code A**

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