

Your reference:

Our reference: 2002/ Code A

21 June 2002

**First Class Post**

Mrs M Jackson

Code A

**GENERAL  
MEDICAL  
COUNCIL**

*Protecting patients,  
guiding doctors*

Dear Mrs Jackson

**Mrs Alice Wilkie**

I write further to your letter of 12 June 2002. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

I have now had an opportunity to speak with Hampshire Constabulary and taken advice from both senior colleagues and our own solicitors about disclosing to you copies of the expert opinions prepared during the recent police investigation.

As with all record holders, the GMC is bound by the terms and conditions of the Data Protection Act 1998 when deciding how and why personal data is processed. Personal data is information about identifiable, living individuals and includes both facts and opinions about the individual. Processing incorporates the concepts of 'obtaining', 'holding' and 'disclosing' information.

I am advised that, were we to release these documents to you, we may be violating the rights of data subjects (certain individuals named in the documents). I am afraid therefore that due to restrictions placed upon us by the Data Protection Act we are unable, at this time, to disclose the information you have requested.

That said, I am also advised that under the Data Protection Act we can provide personal information to a third party if required to do so by a court order. Should you wish to consider pursuing this option, you should approach a solicitor for advice.

I am sorry that I can not be of further help at this time.

Yours sincerely,

Code A

**Michael Hudspith**  
**Fitness to Practise Directorate**

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