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Paul R. Kernaghan
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 Chief Constable

Your ref:

Our ref: CC/LR/smg/795.02

12 July 2002

Mrs M Jackson

Code A

Dear Mrs Jackson

Your letter dated 4 July 2002 refers.

I note your comments in relation to Chief Superintendent James and felt I should reply personally to you to explain police procedure and hopefully allay any fears you have in relation to our complaints investigation procedure.

Members of the public have lodged complaints against Mr James, arising from the investigation into alleged unlawful deaths at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. The investigation of the complaints has not yet been concluded. Mr James applied for promotion and was successful at a selection board. A vacancy in the higher rank occurred and he was the only qualified candidate. Therefore, I quite naturally promoted him and I make no apology for doing so. To have denied him promotion on the basis of allegations would have been a denial of justice and wrong. Equally, his being promoted in no way indicates that the complaints will not be properly and professionally investigated. The Deputy Chief Constable will consider the report which deals with the complaints and independently decide what action, if any, is appropriate. I am sure that you wish me to have an open mind in respect of all complaints and allegations and not prejudice their outcome.

I do not make decisions solely on the basis of their potential impact on sections of the public but rather on the basis of fairness and equality. Please be assured that I am keen to ensure that the complaints in question are fully investigated, so that appropriate outcomes are achieved, whatever they may be.

Code A

Paul Kernaghan
 Chief Constable