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Paul R. Kernaghan
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Chief Constable

Your ref:

Our ref: CC/smg

6 August 2002

Miss Emily Yeats

Code A

Dear Miss Yeats

Your letter dated 1/8/02 refers.

I have great sympathy with you or anyone else who has lost a close relative and feels that there are questions in relation to the death. I potentially have a role to play in any disciplinary proceedings which might arise out of your complaint. Therefore, I do not feel it would be appropriate for me to reply in great detail in relation to the current state of play vis a vis your complaint. However, my Deputy Chief Constable will reply to you next week.

I am disappointed at the tone of your letter and trust that the following information will be of assistance to you. The death of your grandmother was investigated by police and as a result of that investigation information was supplied to relevant regulatory bodies including the CHI and the GMC. You have alleged that the investigation was not properly conducted and Chief Superintendent Clacher was appointed to investigate your complaint. He has submitted a comprehensive report to the DCC. I am sorry if you feel that there has been a breakdown in communication but these processes take time, particularly if they are to be comprehensive.

In relation to your query about advice from the Crown Prosecution Service, they provide independent advice on the criminal law and in fact are the body who decide if criminal charges are to be preferred or not. Police officers do not decide this key issue but merely provide evidence to the CPS. Equally, the CPS can request further evidence or additional enquiries to be carried out by the police.

I can assure you that we have no desire to be anything other than helpful to you and the other people in your situation. In essence, we are looking at two issues; the conduct of the investigation by Mr James and the actual investigation in to the death of your grandmother and others at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. Our aim is to ensure that any issues of potential criminal behaviour are properly considered by the CPS and that all officers conducted themselves in a professional manner. You have asked that your allegations be investigated fully and that is exactly what is going on. I regret that such matters cannot be resolved within a few weeks.