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Your ref:

Our ref: IR/DCC/hjs

19th August, 2002.

Miss E. Yates

Code A

Dear Miss Yates,

In furtherance to your letter dated 1st August, 2002, I am now able to correspond with you concerning the report that I have received from Chief Superintendent Clacher on Monday, 22nd July, 2002. From the outset can I say that I appreciate the distress that the loss of your grandmother has obviously caused you and your mother, Mrs. Jackson. You have my sincere condolences and throughout, in recognition of the bereavement that you have suffered, I have sought to deal professionally with your concerns. It was for that reason that I appointed Chief Superintendent Clacher to undertake the extensive review of the complaint that you had made against Detective Superintendent John James.

As a result of reading the Clacher Report, I needed to consult with Mr. **Code A** the Chief Crown Prosecutor for the Crown Prosecution Service in Hampshire. I wrote to him officially on this matter on 23rd July, 2002. Although I have yet to receive final confirmation from the CPS as to the proposal which I have made to them, I am confident that the Director of Casework located in their London Headquarters, will be receptive to my request that it is in the interest of the families and the Constabulary to receive all of the evidence in our possession. This includes the report from Chief Superintendent Clacher and the recently published report by the Commission for Health Improvement. As the Chief Constable stated to you in his letter dated 6th August, the Crown Prosecution Service provide the independent advice on the criminal law and ultimately it is they who make the final decision if it is in the public interest to bring any criminal charges, not the police.

It is my intention to ask Superintendent Paul Stickler, who is the Divisional Commander at Havant, to undertake the responsibility for collating all the matters referred to above and submit it to the Crown Prosecution Service. Mr. Stickler is an experienced senior officer who has served for many years in the Criminal Investigation Department. I must, however, emphasise that this is not a new investigation into the events at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital and he will not be seeking additional evidence at this time. Due to other commitment he will not commence this work until early September although I have asked for it to be with the CPS, appropriately prepared, by the end of the month.

Miss E. Yates

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19th August, 2002.

I will obviously keep you advised of any other developments but I would not anticipate at this stage being in a position to do anything further until October. If I can be of any assistance in the interim, then no doubt you will contact me. My suggestion would be that you use either myself or Chief Superintendent Derek Stevens as a point of consultation.

Code A

I.R. Readhead
Deputy Chief Constable