

Deputy Chief Constable Readhead
Hampshire Constabulary
Police Headquarters
West Hill
WINCHESTER
Hampshire
SO22 5DB

01 September 2002

Miss Emily Yeats

Code A

Dear Mr Readhead

RE: Gosport War Memorial Hospital

I am writing in reference to your letter dated 19th August and to express my serious concern and disappointment at the course of action you have proposed to take.

I am at a loss to understand how you have justified and reasoned your decision not to open a new investigation or seek any new evidence surrounding events at the Gosport War Memorial. I have serious reservations and concerns about your proposal to collate all the information in this case in order to send it to the Crown Prosecution Service. You said to me in our phone conversation on 21st August that you intended to provide the CPS with all the relevant information to see if it would alter their original decision. I asked you then and I ask you again now, how can the CPS be expected to make an informed and balanced judgement based solely on the information you have? Hampshire constabulary have not yet even considered all of the cases in this matter and there may well be a wealth of evidence which the CPS may need to consider. When we spoke you attempted to justify your argument by stating that a considerable amount of new information would be considered which had not been available in the previous case, this includes the much-revered 'Clacher report'. However, whilst I accept that a significant amount of new 'information' has been collected, it is my understanding that the CPS can only make a decision based on available evidence. This would suggest that the information held in the Clacher report would be irrelevant to any decision the CPS may make. If this is the case then the only evidence the constabulary will be able to provide in addition to the original case amounts to the expert medical opinions and the CHI report.

How has this situation arisen? There are a number of cases which the constabulary have failed to investigate and certainly in my own case there is much work to be done before the CPS can be provided with all of the available evidence. The Chief Constable wrote in his letter of August 6th that he wanted to assure me that the constabulary wanted me to be satisfied that a "comprehensive police investigation has been carried out and that the CPS have had all the relevant facts". I can tell you now that at the moment I am far from satisfied that this is the case. You asked me in our

previous telephone conversation if I wanted you to investigate all of the deaths at the hospital. To answer your question, I would like for you to investigate the deaths of those families who have come forward alleging the unlawful killing of their relatives. This is all I have asked for and all I continue to ask for. If an investigation into other deaths is subsequently required then that is another situation which should be dealt with as it arises. Until such times as all of the cases where relatives have come forward are investigated I do not believe that we can be sure a thorough investigation has taken place.

It also concerns me that you have continued to be 'guided' by the case of Gladys Richards. I believe that the outcome of this case was used as a basis for the decision not to proceed further with the other cases. However, as I am sure you are already aware, each case is individual and should be dealt with as such. I will quote to you if I may from the code of Crown Prosecutors which states, "each case is unique and must be considered on its own facts and merits." Can you honestly say that this principle has been applied to these cases? Unfortunately I cannot say that it has. I believe most strongly that this is most definitely a matter which should be pursued in the interests of the public and the families concerned. As I have said so many times before these are serious allegations and should be dealt with as such. Unless you can be one hundred percent confident in your own mind that the doctor in this case has not committed any act of wrong doing then how can you continue to justify your decision?

Your letter also neglected to mention the current status of our formal complaint against Superintendent John James. I am interested to know whether our complaint against this officer has been upheld. I believe Mr Clacher's report concentrated on our complaint against Mr James but we have heard nothing since. I have been led to believe however, that you are waiting for a response from the CPS before making a decision about James. Is this the case? If so, I am confused as to why you need the help of the CPS in determining whether Mr James' actions were appropriate. My understanding is that the CPS deals with criminal matters, not disciplinary ones. I thought that it was for you to decide on the outcome of such formal complaints. I stand by my belief that the actions of Mr James were inappropriate to say the very least, and I would like to see Hampshire Constabulary acknowledge this and ensure this situation never occurs again. It is my belief that had the correct action been taken when these alleged crimes were first brought to the attention of the police then we would not be in the position we are today. I cannot help but feel that the incompetence of Superintendent James' actions have been protected by the constabulary and exacerbated by continuing delaying tactics and a failure to take decisive and positive action.

I would like to make one final request. Could you please ensure that in future my name is spelt correctly in our correspondence? An insignificant point to you perhaps, but one that is suggestive of a lack of attention to detail. In both letters sent from your office the spelling of my name has been incorrect despite the amount of correspondence sent to you with the correct spelling.

To confirm our meeting, I have received a letter from your PA confirming our appointment for 11th September at 15.00. I look forward to meeting you then with the other relatives. Could you also confirm that Mr Clacher will be in attendance as

discussed in our recent telephone conversation? As a number of other families will be attending the meeting and we will not be solely discussing individual cases, I would appreciate a written response to the points raised in my letter.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely

Miss Emily Yeats