

29-10-2002 14:03 FROM: MEDIA SERVICES HAMP'S 01962 871506

TO: Code A

P:2/4

FAO : Code A

Statement by Hampshire's Deputy Chief Constable Ian Readhead:

Hampshire Constabulary has, throughout this inquiry, shared information concerning the death of patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital with other key agencies including the Commission for Health Improvement and the General Medical Council.

We previously submitted evidence on one case to the Crown Prosecution Service but were advised by them that there was insufficient evidence on which to base a criminal prosecution.

We subsequently reviewed four other deaths at the hospital and the evidence in relation to these, as well as the Commission for Health Improvement report into the hospital and an internal Hampshire Constabulary report compiled by Chief Superintendent Dan Clacher are being submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service in the next few days.

A number of questions are being posed in those reports to the Crown Prosecution Service as to future action.

We are aware of the appointment by the Chief Medical Officer of Professor Baker. We will fully support his work in any way that we can.

I personally met bereaved relatives for two hours on Wednesday (September 11) at Fareham Police Station to discuss the current status of our inquiries. I have assured them that I will keep them as fully informed as I can of the progress of our work.

End

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Kevin Briscoe..... Code A