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Your ref:

Our ref: IR/DCC/hjs

11th September, 2002.

Mrs. R. Carby

Code A

Dear Mrs. Carby,

Thank you for your letter dated 1st September, 2002. Can I assure you that I have not disregarded your letter, however, I probably should have explained more fully what is meant when I have used the words 'public interest'. This is a legal term and relates to the decision made by the Crown Prosecution Service on previous evidence presented to them that there was insufficient evidence to prove that a criminal offence had been committed. We are continuing to look at other cases with specific focus on causal links. It is necessary in any murder or manslaughter case to prove beyond reasonable doubt when an act committed by one individual has been the cause of death of another. This is different from negligence or gross negligence and the test is an onerous one when applied to the criminal law. You mention the CHI report, however, this refers to policies and practices at the hospital and is explicit in stating that it does not focus on holding to account specific individuals.

I will continue to keep you advised as to our progress with this matter and apologise if my previous letter caused you distress.

Code A

I.R. Readhead
Deputy Chief Constable