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In reply please quote case reference no. PCH/2000/2047

5 October 2004

Mr Martin Chivers

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Dear Mr Chivers

Dr Jane Barton

GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL

*Protecting patients,
guiding doctors*

You will be aware that Hampshire Police are currently carrying out an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the deaths of a number of patients, occurring principally during the late 1990's, at Gosport War Memorial Hospital, Hampshire. You will also be aware that during the course of those investigations Hampshire Police have had cause to refer to the GMC matters concerning the treatment of a number of patients by Dr Jane Barton, some of who have sadly died. This information is due to be considered by the GMC's Professional Conduct Committee at a public hearing once the Police and GMC investigations have been completed.

It is the GMC's normal practice when working alongside a Police investigation to put our investigations on hold so that we do not inhibit the Police investigation. However, even though we have a duty not to inhibit a Police investigation, we are always mindful of our overriding responsibility to protect patients. Therefore, on 7 October 2004 the GMC's Interim Orders Committee will consider whether it is necessary for the protection of members of the public, or otherwise be in the public interest, for Dr Barton's registration to be restricted whilst Hampshire Police carry out its investigation. If the Interim Orders Committee is of the view that a restriction is appropriate, it can issue an order to suspend or impose conditions on Dr Barton's registration, for a period not exceeding eighteen months.

The Interim Orders Committee will meet in private. However, the GMC is under a statutory duty to publish the outcome of all Interim Orders Committee hearings. It is our usual practice to do so by placing the outcomes of hearings on our website, the address of which is www.gmc-uk.org.

I will be the GMC caseworker for our investigation concerning the information from Hampshire Police regarding Dr Barton's treatment of patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. If you have any questions about the GMC's investigation or process please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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Paul Hylton
Conduct Case Presentation Section
Direct Line: **Code A**

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Fax**Date** 08 October 2004**From** Martin Chivers**To** Attention of :- **Code A****Tel** **Code A****Tel** **Code A****E-mail** **Code A****E-mail****Fax****Fax** **Code A****Page 1 of****Subject** Gosport War Memorial Hospital**Copy to**

Please find to follow, letter from GMC (General Medical Council) for your information as discussed this morning.

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