

Operation ROCHESTER

Family Group Members Investigation Update Bulletin No. 6. 14th September 2004

Investigation

What time frame? → The current phase of the investigation is progressing well and within the expected timeframe. In respect of cases in category 3, we are continuing the process of interviewing and taking statements from key medical and nursing staff. It should be highlighted that the investigation team have and continue to receive the fullest co-operation from Hospital Authorities and Healthcare staff during a necessarily lengthy process. ?

We have recently notified, by letter, family group members in a number of the category 2 cases of the outcome of our investigation in respect of their individual case. Accompanying some those letters was a document requesting family authorization to disclose medical records and associated documents to other regulatory bodies. We urge those of you who received this document to sign and return it to us, in the enclosed FREEPOST envelope as soon as possible.

The quality assurance process on a medical/legal basis is continuing in respect of the remaining category 2 cases. Family group members of those cases will be notified of the outcome of our investigation as soon as that process has been completed.

Medical Experts

A third tier of medical expertise commissioned to review category three cases from an evidential perspective are well under way with their analysis of medical records, associated healthcare professional statements and family group members statements. It is these experts who will provide evidence for final consideration by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Crown Prosecution Service

We continue to work in close consultation with the Crown Prosecution Service and anticipate that we will provide them with case papers for their consideration during the latter part of this year.

Rochester staff

I am pleased to inform you that I have returned to the ROCHESTER team. In light of this crucial stage of the enquiry David Williams will remain with the

Media

This enquiry continues to attract a great deal of media interest. Our approach has been to strike a balance that allows the media and the public to be informed of the progress of the investigation without compromising the final determination. We also take on board the views of relevant stakeholders in particular the Fareham and Gosport Healthcare Trust.

I take this opportunity to remind you of the advice given to you by the Operation Rochester team regarding the prejudicial impact that media reporting may have on the investigation and on any subsequent Court proceedings.

Conclusion

May I take this opportunity to thank family group members for their enduring patience during a protracted painstaking and detailed investigation. Whilst the final outcome may not be known for many months, I am confident that the framework of this investigation will stand the highest scrutiny within any judicial arena.

In the mean time, should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact our Family Liaison Officer, DC Kate Robinson.

Yours sincerely

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Nigel Niven
T/DCI Operation Rochester

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