



Operation ROCHESTER

Family Group Members Investigation Update Bulletin No. 5. 21st June 2004

Investigation

2 YEARS on.

The investigation has now progressed into a new phase and is moving forward quickly. Cases in category 2 are still being quality assured on a medical/legal basis and it is hoped that this process will be completed within the next couple of weeks. We will then be in a position to notify the relevant family group members of the future in respect of their case.

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Statements have been obtained from the majority of family group members in respect of cases in category 3. We are in the process of interviewing and taking statements from hospital medical and nursing staff who had any involvement in the treatment of those patients. These statements along with all other relevant documentation and medical records are to be examined by our next tier of experts. Subject to the findings of these experts, it is hoped that papers will be presented to and reviewed by the CPS in the latter part of this year.

Rochester staff

I was informed

I regret to inform you that due to illness Nigel Niven has temporarily left the enquiry. DCI David Williams has assumed the role of Deputy Senior Investigating Officer. David is a very experienced Senior Investigating Officer in his own right, and he is an asset to the enquiry. Nigel's illness was sudden and it was important that we were able to introduce David quickly so that there has been the minimum of delay in the investigation. We wish Nigel well and look forward to him rejoining the investigation team as soon as he is able.

Code A

As you can no doubt imagine, the new phase of our investigation involves conducting a large amount of enquiries within a relatively short time scale. In order to continue with our enquiries effectively and expeditiously we have increased the number of staff on our investigation team by two detective sergeants and four detective constables.

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Family Liaison

Code A continues in her role as Family Liaison Officer in addition to her role as an investigator, I know that many of you have been very grateful for her help and advice. However, since the investigation has entered a new phase, it has been decided to supplement the Family Liaison Support that is being provided. **DI Mark Bissell, our Family Liaison Co-ordinator** will manage this, some families will be therefore meeting new people as the enquiry continues.

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In the event of any query, please do not hesitate to contact us at our incident room at Fareham police station. As a reminder to you our contact details are as below.

Operation Rochester,
Fareham Police Station
Quay Street
Fareham
PO16 ONA.

Telephone: 023 9289 2601
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Steve Watts
Senior Investigating Officer