

Code A

**From:** Code A  
**Sent:** 19 December 2008 10:41  
**To:** Code A  
**Cc:** Code A  
**Subject:** FW: Early Bods

Code A

Some suggested amendments.

Code A

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**From:** Code A  
**Sent:** 19 December 2008 10:06  
**To:** Code A  
**Subject:** FW: Early Bods

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As discussed are the lines below still ok to use?

#### Line To Take

- We can confirm that the Portsmouth and South East Coroner has initially reported the facts about seven deaths which occurred at Gosport War Memorial Hospital over a number of years, where the bodies had been cremated
- In the light of the facts, the Secretary of State decided that it was desirable that inquests should be held into these seven deaths and directed the coroner to hold them
- An 8<sup>th</sup> case has recently been reported and is under consideration
- We cannot comment on the details of the individual cases
- Decisions as to how the inquests should be conducted are matters for the coroner concerned

#### Inquests taking place where bodies have already been cremated:

- Where a body has been cremated (or is otherwise irrecoverable) the coroner may report the facts to the Secretary of State, under section 15 of the Coroners Act 1988, if he thinks an inquest ought to be held
- If the Secretary of State considers it desirable, he can then direct that an inquest should be held.

#### Inquests taking place where bodies have not been cremated:

- If a body is buried in the coroner's district it is for him to consider under section 8 of the Coroners Act 1988 whether he has a duty to hold an inquest.

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**Code A** | Press Officer

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**From:** Code A  
**Sent:** 18 December 2008 18:19  
**To:** Code A  
**Cc:** Code A  
**Subject:** Early Bods

Early bods please see below ...

**Mail on Sunday:** The Sunday Times reported back in May that Jack Straw ordered an inquest into 10 suspicious deaths (it is in fact for seven) at Gosport War Memorial Hospital, in Hampshire. The patients were among a group of 92 who died unexpectedly after being given large doses of morphine and other drugs at the hospital. Their relatives believe their deaths were a form of euthanasia.

The local Cons MP is now calling for inquests to be opened into all 92. What is our response?

**Deadline:** Midday

Below is stuff from the original Sunday Times piece forecast in May. Code A wasn't available last night so I was unable to check where we are at with it.

**Official**

**Code A**

**Line To Take**

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- In the light of the facts, the Secretary of State decided that it was desirable that inquests should be held into these seven deaths and directed the coroner to hold them
- We cannot comment on the details of the individual cases
- Decisions as to how the inquests should be conducted are matters for the coroner concerned

Inquests taking place where bodies have already been cremated:

- Where a body has been cremated (or is otherwise irrecoverable) the coroner may report the facts to the Secretary of State if an inquest ought to be held
- If the Secretary of State considers it desirable, he can then direct that an inquest should be held.

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