

## E-mail Message

**From:** [Code A] [EX:/O=HMCOURTS-SERVICE/OU=ARAMIS/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN= [Code A]  
**To:** [Code A] @dh.gsi.gov.uk [SMTP: [Code A] @dh.gsi.gov.uk]  
**Cc:** [Code A] [EX:/O=HMCOURTS-SERVICE/OU=ARAMIS/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN= [Code A]  
**Sent:** 30/10/2009 at 17:28  
**Received:** 30/10/2009 at 17:28  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INFORMATION: MEDIA QUERY: Independent on Sunday re Gosport

We haven't heard of anything.

Regards

[Code A]

**From:** [Code A] @dh.gsi.gov.uk [mailto:[Code A]@dh.gsi.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 30 October 2009 14:30  
**To:** [Code A]  
**Subject:** FOR INFORMATION: MEDIA QUERY: Independent on Sunday re Gosport

Third time lucky?

You can tell it's Friday afternoon

[Code A]

Investigations and Inquiries  
 Department of Health  
 Area 421, Wellington House  
 133-155 Waterloo Road  
 LONDON SE1 8UG

[Code A]

GTN: 396 21292

----- Forwarded by [Code A] /SC6/DOH/GB on 30/10/2009 14:27 -----

[Code A]

/SC6/DOH/GB

30/10/2009 14:15

To

[Code A]

@justice.gsi.gov.uk

cc

Subject

Fw: MEDIA QUERY: Independent on Sunday re Gosport

[Code A]

Got your address wrong. Are you aware of anything, apart from the forthcoming

inquest, bubbling up about Gosport WMH?

**Code A**

**Code A**

Investigations and Inquiries  
Department of Health  
Area 421, Wellington House  
133-155 Waterloo Road  
LONDON SE1 8UG

**Code A**

GTN: 396 21292

----- Forwarded by **Code A** /SC6/DOH/GB on 30/10/2009 14:11 -----

**Code A**

/SC6/DOH/GB

30/10/2009 14:10

To

**Code A**

/HPIHSD/DOH/GB@DOH

cc

**Code A**

/COEG-IIU/DOH/GB@DOH,

**Code A**

/OIS/DOH@DOH,

**Code A**

@moj.gsi.gov.uk

Subject

Re: Fw: MEDIA QUERY: Independent on Sunday re Gosport Link

**Code A**

The basic point in the line - no decision while other actions are pending/still under way - looks OK. A couple of changes since the summer are that the coroner for Portsmouth and SE Hants has decided to hold an inquest on one of the Gosport patients whose deaths first raised concerns and that Dr Barton's GMC hearing did not conclude in August as had been expected. I checked with MoJ recently and there was no date yet for the inquest; there will be a further session of the GMC hearing in January when they should reach a decision on the fitness to practise question. Depending on the outcome of the hearing there will then be a period for any appeal.

On the point about not making the Baker report public, our line in response to recent FOI Act requests to see it has been that releasing it while there are still matters outstanding (the inquest, the GMC hearing) would be likely to be prejudicial to the administration of justice.

So the final paragraph of the previous line could be amended to say something such as:

The GMC hearing into Dr Barton's fitness to practise has still to be concluded. The coroner for Portsmouth and SE Hampshire will be holding an inquest into the death of another of the patients who died at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. We will study the outcomes of all the proceedings, giving careful consideration...

Omar: do you know what there "fresh calls...by Opposition MPs" are?

**Code A**

**Code A**

Investigations and Inquiries  
 Department of Health  
 Area 421, Wellington House  
 133-155 Waterloo Road  
 LONDON SE1 8UG

**Code A**

GTN: 396 21292

**Code A**

/HPIHSD/DOH/GB

30/10/2009 13:12

To

**Code A**

/SC6/DOH/GB@DOH

cc

**Code A**

/CQEG-IIU/DOH/GB@DOH

Subject

Fw: MEDIA QUERY: Independent on Sunday re Gosport

**Code A**

Is the position the same as in July?

**Code A**

Director of Clinical Policy and Strategy  
 Department of Health  
 5W41 Quarry House  
 LEEDS  
 LS2 7UE

**Code A**

(Mon &amp; Fri only)

----- Forwarded by **Code A** /HPIHSD/DOH/GB on 30/10/2009 13:10 -----**Code A**

/OIS/DOH

30/10/2009 13:04

To

**Code A**

@dh.gsi.gov.uk

cc

**Code A**

/OIS/DOH@DOH

Subject

MEDIA QUERY: Independent on Sunday re Gosport

Hi,

The Independent on Sunday have asked about Gosport War Memorial.

Fresh calls for a public inquiry into the deaths at GWH in the 1990s will be made next week by opposition MPs. Concerns about the death rate were raised back in 1991. Two police investigations were deemed inappropriate by the PCA; the NMC has yet to initiate an investigation into the role nurse played; there is still one inquest outstanding after 11 years; a number of key reports, including the Baker Report commissioned by the DH in 2002, which have not been made public.

Will the DH accept the need for a full public inquiry in order for the victims and their families to get access to justice?

Here is our previous line from June/July - can you update if necessary?

In August 2007, following the coroner's report to the Secretary of State for Justice under section 15 of the Coroners Act 1988, a meeting was held between the coroner and representatives of Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Constabulary, the Ministry of Justice and the Department of Health to discuss a number of issues surrounding the deaths of patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

It is our view, as expressed at that meeting, that given the number and variety of investigations and inquiries that have already taken place, combined with the powers that the Coroner has to fully investigate all the issues surrounding the deaths, a further investigation now is likely simply to duplicate the work in hand and that already undertaken by, among others the police, the Health authorities, the NMC, the GMC and the Healthcare Commission.

We will now study the outcomes of these inquests closely, giving careful consideration to whether there are any outstanding matters that require further resolution. This will take into account any action taken by the Hampshire Constabulary, Crown Prosecution Service and the GMC.

Thanks

Code A

| Chief Press Officer | Department of Health |

Code A