

East Hampshire 
Primary Care Trust

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2nd October 2002

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Mr A M Horne

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Private & Confidential

Dear Tony

I am writing to you further to my letter dated 24 September 2002 and our subsequent telephone conversations. I am aware that you have also been having discussions with Gareth Cruddace.

I thought it would be helpful to all concerned for me to clarify the East Hampshire Primary Care Trust's expectations of you, in relation to any contact you may have with both other employees of this PCT and former employees of either Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust or what was Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Health Authority, during your redeployment.

In relation to current employees, it is obviously the case that there may need to be discussions between members of the senior management team and yourself from time to time about issues within the PCT. Indeed such contact must take place, if the activities of the PCT are to be properly managed and to ensure that your ability to return to your duties as Chief Executive at some time in the future is not prejudiced (subject only to the outcome of any investigations).

I am writing to confirm that I have no objection to such contact taking place, and that I have made it clear to the senior management team that this is the case. However, in order to ensure that such contact cannot be said to have provided you with the opportunity to influence any ongoing investigation into events at Gosport War Memorial Hospital, however, I have indicated to the senior managers that they must ensure that a contemporaneous note is kept of all such contact; and I recommend that you do the same. I should perhaps make it clear that in issuing these instructions I am not intending to impugn your integrity in any way, and I have also made that point to the senior

management team. This is a process which is intended purely to protect both the PCT and yourself from any suggestion of improper conduct, whilst investigations are on going.

You and I have also discussed the practical difficulties that have arisen for you because of the advice we have previously given to you about contact between yourself and former employees of either Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust and what was Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Health Authority.

The PCT cannot restrict your activities as a private individual, nor has it any wish to do so. The advice we have previously given in this regard takes account of the fact that Gosport War Memorial Hospital was formerly run as a directly managed unit and then by Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust and some individuals who **now** fall into the category of former employees will have had some direct involvement in the management of that Hospital. As a result, such individuals may well be approached as part of the current investigations into what happened in 1991 and beyond, and whilst that investigation is ongoing, you should exercise discretion in your contact with any such individuals in order to avoid either the appearance of or the accusation that there has been collusion between yourself and others over information to be given to any ongoing investigation. It follows that you should not be drawn into any conversation, however informal, about events at Gosport War Memorial, and I know I can rely on your common sense in this respect.

I hope this is helpful. Once again if you have any queries, then do please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Code A

Margaret Scott
Chairman