

East Hampshire 
Primary Care Trust

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Tel: 
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24th September 2002

Mr A M Horne


Code A

Dear Tony

Temporary Redeployment from your duties as Chief Executive

I am writing to confirm the discussions we have had over the last few days.

As you are aware information came to light early last week that staff had expressed concern to management about the prescription of drugs at Gosport War Memorial Hospital in 1991. This information has now been passed to both the Police and the Strategic Health Authority and investigations into the way in which the concerns were responded to will be undertaken. Such concerns appear to have been made at a time when you were part of the management team responsible for Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

Following discussion with the Health authority Chief Executive, and given the level of public interest in the issues surrounding prescription of drugs at Gosport War Memorial Hospital, I informed you that I believed that it would be in the interests of both maintaining public confidence in the NHS and your own interests for you to be re-deployed temporarily from your duties as Chief Executive of East Hampshire PCT.

As you have acknowledged it is essential for the service to be able to demonstrate that this information, once received, was acted on appropriately and it will be the subject of a thorough and objective investigation. Your temporary redeployment will avoid any inference that you have been in a position to influence the scope of the investigation whilst it is ongoing or any allegation of interference in that investigation. To that end it is also important that you don't enter any of the PCT's premises or those of Fareham and Gosport PCT. Clearly this does not extend to any need you may have as a patient or relative: if you have any queries do contact me. This also means that you should not communicate with present employees of the PCT with regards to this situation. I have to

advise you that whilst we cannot legally restrict your right to contact individuals who are not our current employees, I must make it clear that contact with any individuals who are former employees of the PCTs, the former Portsmouth HealthCare NHS Trust or the former Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Health Authority may be inadvisable in the present circumstances and could lead to allegations of inappropriate conduct. If this causes a particular difficulty or if you have any queries do contact me so that we can discuss it.

I will keep you informed of the parameters and timescale of the investigation once this has been decided. I know you will do all you can to co-operate with the investigation.

I know you have had some discussions regarding your temporary role and that you will be discussing this further with Gareth later this week. If I can be of any help in furthering those discussion do let me know. I should confirm that your Terms and Conditions of service are unaffected by your redeployment: you will continue to be paid by East Hampshire PCT in the same way.

As it is important that I can confirm your receipt if this letter please sign one copy and return it to me.

I have already told you how sorry I am for the trauma this situation is causing you and your family. I hope you will always feel you can contact me at any time if you so wish. Likewise, please contact Denise Farmer if you have any queries with which you feel she can help.

Yours Sincerely

Code A

Margaret Scott
Chairman

Code A

Confirmation of Receipt.....