

Hampshire and Isle of Wight
Strategic Health Authority



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Facsimile Cover Sheet

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To:	Lucy Docherty Margaret Scott	Fax No:	Code A
From:	Garath Cruddace	Date:	18 September 2002
Subject:	Line to Take with Senior Team	Pages:	Two pages including cover page

Dear Lucy / Margaret:

I am sorry but this message is going to affect the plans we had agreed for tomorrow.

Following discussions with Hampshire Constabulary it has been necessary to make some significant changes to the proposed communications process planned for tomorrow. This is in order that we do not in any way compromise the ongoing police investigations into these matters.

Peter Bingham will be contacting you both in the morning to discuss these changes with you personally.

The process is now:

- 0800 to 0830 – Lucy and Margaret brief their senior teams on a strictly embargoed basis
- No onward notification to wider staff under any circumstances until further advice is received from the Health Authority.
- No comment made to the press. If the press does somehow hear about this issue before we have released it ourselves then the enquiry should be directed to Adrian Osborne, Press Office, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Health Authority on 023 8072 5419
- It is essential that there is no break in this embargo beyond the senior teams. This is because we must aim to ensure that staff in both organisations hear about this matter at the same time from their PCT and before they hear about it independently.

Attached below is the briefing to senior staff.

This briefing will also be used by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Health Authority as a holding statement for the media in the event that we have to comment at short notice before our discussions with the police have been completed. If any enquiries from the media are received before staff have been notified then we seek their support and discretion to ensure that we can inform all relevant parties (including staff) appropriately before it appears on press, TV, radio etc.

If you are aware of any potential threats to this embargo then please contact Adrian as soon as possible so that we can ensure coherent and consistent communication to all relevant stakeholders.

With many thanks

Garath

Chairman: Peter Bingham
Chief Executive: Garath Cruddace

FAX FROM : Code A
18.09 02 18.09 FAX

Code A

Eileen Spiller

18/09/02 20:29 PG: 2
02

MANAGEMENT - IN CONFIDENCE

STATEMENT

The care and treatment of patients at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital has been the subject of investigations by the Commission for Health Improvement and the Hampshire Constabulary. Last week, the Government's Chief Medical Officer commissioned a clinical audit of the service concerned to be undertaken by acknowledged national expert Professor Richard Baker.

Additional information relevant to these matters has recently come to light and this information has been handed to the appropriate authorities.

In order to ensure that comprehensive investigation can take place it has been agreed that Ian Piper, the Chief Executive of Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust, and Tony Horne, Chief Executive of East Hampshire Primary Care Trust, will be temporarily redeployed from their current duties.

We would like to reassure local people that whilst the CHI investigation had some serious concerns about services in the past it concluded that policies and procedures are now in place to ensure safe standards of care at the hospital.

MANAGEMENT - IN CONFIDENCE

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