



East Hampshire **NHS**  
Primary Care Trust

Department of Medicine for Elderly People  
Queen Alexandra Hospital  
Cosham  
Portsmouth  
Hants  
PO6 3LY

Tel:   
Fax:

LH/scb

27<sup>th</sup> June 2003

Dr. A. Lord  
Consultant Geriatrician  
Elderly Medicine  
QAH

cc  
Neil  
Stubbs

Dear Althea

**Re: Consultant Workload in Gosport – June 2003**

Thank you for your memo dated 11<sup>th</sup> June 2003. I have spoken to David and he will be contacting you to discuss the issues that you raise.

These are indeed difficult times, in all areas of the service. The enforced National change in Junior Doctor's hours has had a significant impact on consultant workload, working hours and outpatient waiting times etc. It is unfortunate that Dr. Qureshi had to return home (because of family illness) at the time. There is good news, in that he will be back with us on 8<sup>th</sup> July. There is no need to explain to you the risk associated with employing and the difficulties finding locum consultants. Yet without them there is simply no scope to stretch the consultant resource in a different direction.

As David will be discussing your letter in detail with you, I will confine this response to those specific points where I may have something additional to add. I met with Fiona Cameron last week so was able to discuss some of these issues with her.

6) **Medical Staffing:** We do need to resolve the staffing problems in Gosport and there are interesting plans currently being discussed, but these will take time to come to fruition. In the short term Fiona has offered financial support for locum cover. I am meeting with Ian, David and Neil this Friday to discuss medical staffing opportunities in general.

One of my problems is that I am not always included in discussion (or even informed that they are happening), with regard to suggested development in the Community Hospitals. Fiona has confirmed that she sees her role as being linked with the commissioning of services and that it is me, as the General Manager of the service concerned who should be engaged in these discussions. May I ask that I be included in future discussions of this nature, please.

8) **New Complaint:** I have asked that I be kept informed on any complaints that relate to medical care at Gosport War Memorial Hospital so that I can offer support when needed. I was unaware that you had received a new complaint.

9) **E-mail Addresses:** This is a problem but not a new one. I hope when all systems are eventually linked this will be resolved.

10) **Secretarial Support:** I met with Brenda ( and the rest of the admissions team last week). Workload was one of the issues discussed. When asked, Brenda said that she was comfortable with her workload, except for during times of real pressure i.e. unexpected sickness or annual leave.

12) Both Matthew and Lattif will be back for July. I am sure that David will discuss and arrange any necessary cover changes as soon as possible.

13) Links with No.6 above.

I am confident that your discussions with David will reassure you that we do take the needs of Gosport seriously including ensuring that you have adequate support. If either of you feel I can add value, I would be happy to attend your meeting.

Yours sincerely,

**Code A**

Lesley Humphrey  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

c.c. David Jarrett  
Ian Reid  
Fiona Cameron