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Portsmouth Hospitals **NHS**

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Your Ref: CAT/JO/

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3 July 2003

 Dr Carol Trotter
 Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry
 Elderly Mental Health Department
 East Hampshire Primary Care Trust
 St James' Hospital
 Locksway Road
 PORTSMOUTH PO4 8LD

Dear Dr Trotter

Re: Acute Admissions to Elderly Mental Health Wards, St James' Hospital

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 24 June to Sheila Clark. I sympathise entirely with your points. As an avid student of the whole health community delayed discharge figures (and not just those in acute beds at QA and SMH) I have long been aware that, after QA, EMH beds have the single highest number of delays. As a percentage of hospital beds, the EMH problem is obviously the worst.

Unfortunately, the absence of including EMH beds in the statistics means that they are ignored nationally, just as waits to see OTs and Physios are ignored because they are not contained in the waiting times stats.

Nor is the money newly given to Social Services Departments to pay fines if beds are blocked available to refund EMH providers with blocked beds, although I do understand the Government will extend the range of "fineable" beds in due course.

Sheila will no doubt reply for herself but she and I have had meetings with the Director of Social Services for Portsmouth and we understand some of their difficulties. The Portsmouth situation affects East Hants PCT, not only on EMH beds but on elderly acute beds where there are more Portsmouth delays than Hampshire delays. The Officers of the Council are very committed to working with us, but they can only work with the resources that they are allocated so at some point we will need to raise the matter at a more political level. As far as MPs are concerned we are meeting them on Friday and no doubt the subject of delays will be raised.

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Dr Carol Trotter

I will leave it to Tony to lead on tactics for East Hants PCT, but you can be assured that Portsmouth Hospitals Trust is very keen to improve the situation on blocked beds across all NHS beds in Portsmouth and South East Hampshire.

Yours sincerely

Code A

Alan Bedford
Chief Executive

cc: Sheila Clark, Portsmouth City PCT
Tony Horne, East Hants PCT
Ian Piper, Fareham and Gosport PCT