



H A M P S H I R E C o n s t a b u l a r y

Paul R. Kernaghan QPM LL.B MA DPM MCIPD
Chief Constable



Our Ref . . . : MIC/Det.Supt/JJ/DM

Your Ref . . . :

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14 August 2001

Mr M Millett
 Portsmouth HealthCare NHS Trust
 Trust Central Office
 St James Hospital
 Locksway Road
 PORTSMOUTH
 Hampshire
 PO4 8LD

Dear Mr Millett

Reference: Gosport War Memorial Hospital

I am writing in response to your letter of the 6th August 2001, concerning the police enquiry into death at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

I can confirm that we have now collected the further records and are arranging for them to be forwarded to the experts we have engaged. I anticipate that this process will be complete and I will have written responses to our brief within 6-8 weeks.

I am sorry if there was some delay in reaching me here. I am at a loss to explain why that might be given that the offices are manned each day during normal working hours.

I can further confirm that the advice of the Crown Prosecution Service in relation to the enquiries conducted into the death of Gladys RICHARDS has now been confirmed in writing. They conclude that there is not sufficient evidence to warrant initiating proceedings against any of the individuals interviewed. I have accepted their advice.

I appreciate there has been some delay in formally notifying the Trust of this decision. There are a number of reasons for that delay. Firstly, it was only fair that the individual concerned received formal notification through their solicitors. Secondly, I was awaiting formal written



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notification from the CPS which was only received on the 10th August 2001. Finally I and other colleagues managing the case have been employed full time on other live enquiries.

I am aware of the delay in bringing the investigation to a conclusion. I would seek to assure you that we are endeavouring to acquire sufficient information as soon as possible to allow me to determine whether or not further police investigations are appropriate.

As soon as that decision is made I will advise all the interested parties as a matter of priority.

Yours sincerely

Code A

J JAMES
Detective Superintendent

~~Jan P.
 Kover
 Guy Walker
 Jan R.
 Al Neal.
 David J.~~

Detective Superintendent John James
Hampshire Constabulary
Major Crime Complex
Kingston Crescent
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PO2 9BG

Our ref: MM/DH
Your ref:
Date: 6 August, 2001
Ext: 4306
Direct Dial: (023) 9289 4378

Dear Mr James

GWMH - Further Enquires

We have now collected together the health records for the following people, as held by Portsmouth HealthCare Trust:-

Alice Wilkie
Robert Wilson
Eva Page
Arthur (Brian) Cunningham

We have been trying to contact you by telephone, without success, to arrange collection of these records. Please telephone Mrs D Hollies on 02392 894350 to arrange to do so. We will require a signed record, confirming that these records have been removed by the police.

We have not informed the recorded next of kin that these records are being handed over to you for examination. In at least one case (that we know of) the person recorded as next of kin is not the person(s) that we understand has brought their concern to your attention. Mr Robert Wilson's, next of kin is **Code A** (his second wife). We understand that it was **Code A** **Code A** from his first marriage, who approached the police. There is disharmony (to say the least) between **Code A** and Mr Wilson's family from his first marriage; this is a long standing situation which pre-dated Mr Wilson's death and has continued ever since to our knowledge.

From your conversations with Mr Piper and Mrs Humphrey, we understand that you will be seeking a clinical opinion on the basis of these records, as to whether further investigations of these cases is appropriate. We would appreciate a swift conclusion to this process, to end the uncertainty in which staff at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital have been for almost three years now.

I understand from Mr Piper and Mrs Humphrey that the CPS have decided to take no further action with regards to the death of Gladys Richards. I am somewhat concerned that to date this Trust has not yet received written confirmation of this decision yet, although I understand that letters have been sent to the RCN Solicitors etc. I would be grateful if you would confirm the official position, in writing, as soon as possible.

When the police inquiries are concluded, The Trust will of course require the return of these four sets of notes and also the notes and x-rays for Gladys Richards.

I look forward to hearing the outcome of this stage of your inquiry as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Max Millett
Chief Executive