

Our Ref: D Roche  
 Your Ref:  
 10 December 1999



**Beachcroft  
 Wansbroughs**  
 SOLICITORS

Lorna Green  
 Business Manager  
 Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust  
 St James' Hospital  
 Locksway Road  
 PORTSMOUTH  
 PO4 8LD

Dear Lorna

**The Late Gladys Richards**

Thank you for telephoning on 6 December 1999. I was sorry to learn that the Police have decided to re-open this investigation after such a long period of time.

As discussed Dr Barton should contact her medical defence organisation as soon as possible if she has not already done so. I would expect her medical defence organisation to send one of their own Solicitors to attend with her for the Police interview. I would be interested to see the papers which I mentioned at points 1 and 2 of paragraph 3 of my letter of 29 December 1998.

I do not believe that there is anything in particular that we can do at present. However, please do let me know if I can be of any further assistance during the course of the Police enquiry.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

**Code A**

DAVID ROCHE

Direct Dial 01962 705585  
 E-mail [droche@bwlaw.co.uk](mailto:droche@bwlaw.co.uk)

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*hesley This is the  
 latest response on GWS  
 matter. Can you point  
 me in the direction  
 for the info required  
 in letter of 29/12/98.*

*Thanks.*

*Not Urgan x!*

St Swithun's House 1a St Cross Road Winchester SO23 9WP  
 Tel: 01962 705 500 Fax: 01962 705 510  
 DX: 2540 : WINCHESTER 1

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WANSBROUGH'S  
WILLEY HARGRAVE  
SOLICITORS

Lorna Green  
Business Manager  
Portsmouth HealthCare NHS Trust  
St James' Hospital  
Locksway Road  
PORTSMOUTH  
PO4 8LD

St Swithun's House  
1a St Cross Road  
Winchester SO23 9WP  
Telephone 01962 841 444  
Fax 01962 843 133  
DX 2540 Winchester 1  
LIX BSL 003

Date:  
29 December 1998

Our Ref:  
DAR/JK/Richards  
D J Roche  
M McGrath

Your Ref:

Dear Lorna

**The Late Gladys Richards**

I write to confirm our telephone conversation this morning. I have considered Dr Lord's report. I do not know the cause of death. However if we are confident that the late Mrs Richards' medical management would be endorsed by a responsible body of medical opinion then there is no substance in the allegation of unlawful killing which her daughter [Code A] has made to the police. I understand that the allegation has been made against Dr Jane Barton, Clinical Assistant who is also a GP. As she is a GP almost certainly she will be a member of the Medical Defence Union or the Medical Protection Society. I believe that Dr Barton should contact her Medical Defence organisation as soon as possible for advice.

From the Trust's point of view if Dr Lord is confident in Dr Barton's management I consider that it would be preferable for Dr Lord to make a copy of her statement available to the police. If she does not do this then there is a risk that the police will be encouraged to believe that there is some substance to the allegation. However Dr Lord should not send her statement to the police before Dr Barton has had an opportunity to see it and to discuss the matter with her defence organisation.

I should be grateful if you would kindly assist me with the following queries:

1. May I have copies of the late Mrs Richards' daughter, [Code A] letter of complaint, the report by Sue Hutchings and the Death Certificate?
2. May I have copies of the case records or at least copies of the relevant clinical notes?
3. Did the late Mrs Richards have IV fluids on 17 August 1998?

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4. Did Dr Barton make a decision to withdraw IV fluids on 18 August 1998 when the decision to administer Diamorphine through a syringe driver was made?
5. Were the late Mrs Richards' daughters made aware that IV fluids would not be given?
6. Dr Lord states that the administration of IV fluids would not have significantly altered the outcome. I would be interested to know the expected course of events had IV fluids been given.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance at this stage.

Yours sincerely

**Code A**

**D J ROCHE**

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