

DCI R. Burt,  
Major Crime Complex,  
Fratton Police Station,  
Kingston Crescent,  
North End,  
PORTSMOUTH. PO2 8BU

LH/YJM

6th December, 1999

4378

Dear Ray,

**Mrs. Gladys Richards**

Very sensibly our medical staff are in contact with their medical defence union (MDU) with regard to the claim of unlawful killing of Mrs. Gladys Richards. The MDU have asked for written confirmation of the details of the allegation being explored by the police.

Could you please either send me a copy of any written communication/statement which details the complaint (obviously we appreciate that some documents are confidential) or a letter from you which specifies the exact complaint. The original police investigation seemed to focus on the giving of fluids - is this still the case or has the focus broadened?

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Humphrey  
Quality Manager

Copy to:     Dr. A. Lord  
               Dr. J. Barton  
               Mr. W. Hooper



# 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 MIPD  
Chief Constable

Major Crime Complex  
Fratton Police Station  
Kingston Crescent  
North End  
Portsmouth  
Hampshire  
PO2 8BU

Our Ref. HQ(E)/CID/DCI/99

Your Ref.

Tel. 023 92839333  
Direct Dial 023 92 899043  
Fax. 023 92891504  
02/12/99

Dr. J. BARTON  
c/o Mrs L. HUMPHREY  
Quality Manager  
Portsmouth Health Care NHS Trust  
Central Office, St James' Hospital,  
Locksway Road, PORTSMOUTH,  
Hampshire. PO4 8LD

Dear Dr Barton,

**Re: Mrs Gladys Richards**

I thought it appropriate to write and advise you that I have been appointed to make enquiries into the circumstances surrounding the death of Mrs Gladys Richards on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 1998 at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. It is my understanding that you attended to Mrs Richards during her two periods of admission to this hospital during August 1998.

I appreciate that enquiries of this kind are capable of creating feelings of uncertainty and anxiety among health care professionals and I would like to assure you that it is my intention to complete my investigation in a fair, objective and timely manner.

I appreciate that you have a very busy schedule and I have given Mrs Humphrey an undertaking that, as soon as I am in a position to interview you, I will contact her in order to seek a mutually convenient appointment.

In the meantime if you have any procedural queries regarding my investigation please do not hesitate to contact me on 023 92 839333 (Ext: 349/220).

Yours faithfully,

**Code A**

R.J. Burt  
Detective Chief Inspector