

/Lesley

Gladys Richards

URGENT

Have copied to Mat

Really sorry to land this on you - desperately trying to get everything sorted out prior to more / annual leave so I'd really appreciate passing the buck on this one if possible...

CHESTER STERN from Mail on Sunday phoned re. the above and a story he is putting together is awaiting details from Hants Police but is enquiring whether:

- any members of staff suspended/interviewed
- is it true scope of enquiry encompasses more than this one A.

A  
 I'm not sure whether things have moved on since Pds / Lesley's initial brief. Can someone get back to him today with any statement please 0207 9387031.  
 Sorry! Thanks!

ews



News News News News News News News

Hampshire Constabulary  
Media Services, Police Headquarters, Romsey Road, Winchester SO22 5DB  
Tel: 01962 841500 Fax: 01962 871194

On an if asked basis only

OPERATION ROCHESTER

Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of a 91-year-old woman from Lee on Solent following a complaint by her family.

She died in August 1998 at the War Memorial Hospital in Gosport after being transferred there from Royal Hospital Haslar.

In line with patient confidentiality we cannot reveal the nature of her medical condition.

A team is now working from Fratton police station and when the investigation is complete a file will be sent to the Crown Prosecution Service.

We have the full co-operation of the Portsmouth HealthCare (NHS) Trust and the Royal Hospital Haslar for our investigation.

Ends  
Pauline Davey 01962 871057

If asked further:

**Who were the family members?** Her two daughters

**When was the complaint originally made by her family?** The complaint by her family was originally made in September 1998.

**Why investigate it now?** A preliminary investigation was undertaken by police at the time and the CPS advised no further action. The case was reopened after further concerns were voiced by her family.

**What is the allegation made by the family?** We are looking into the circumstances surrounding her death to see if there are any criminal issues arising from it. **If pushed:** The allegation under investigation is that of unlawful killing.

**How many officers are working on the case?** A total of nine people, including civilian staff, are working on the investigation from Fratton police station.

*draft: 16.5.00*

**Statement: re Gladys Richards**

Mrs Richards died at Gosport War Memorial Hospital on August 21st, 1998.

She had been receiving care following readmission from Haslar Hospital. Mrs Richards had been transferred there following a fall at GWMH and a prior half-hip replacement operation at Haslar.

We understand Mrs Richards had, before this, suffered an initial fall at (do we wish to insert name or 'local'?) nursing home.

The Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding Mrs Richards' death. We will continue to cooperate fully with their inquiries.

The death of a loved is always distressing, particularly in such circumstances. Should the family wish to contact us to discuss any concerns further, we should be very pleased to help in any way we can.

[ends]

\*\*\*\*\*

**If pressed .....**

As the matter is subject to a Police investigation, it would be wrong of us to answer any further questions.

We do not know the details of the circumstances which the police are investigating, nor whether they relate to her NHS care or to any other unconnected circumstances.

Clearly, any further questions must be directed to the Police.

\*\*\*\*\*

- Need to review contact with family, identify outstanding issues, agree next steps position.
- Importance of not assuming where problem is (us? but may not be) and ensuring we have a comment in about the continuing duty of care to family (last par).