

Email Message

From: Code A [EX:/O=UKCC/OU=UKCC PORTLAND PLACE/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=J Code A]
To: Code A [EX:/O=UKCC/OU=UKCC PORTLAND PLACE/cn=Recipients/cn= Code A]
Cc: Code A [EX:/O=UKCC/OU=UKCC PORTLAND PLACE/cn=Recipients/cn= Code A], Code A [EX:/O=UKCC/OU=UKCC PORTLAND PLACE/cn=Recipients/cn= Code A]
Sent: 18/06/2009 at 18:49
Received: 18/06/2009 at 18:44
Subject: Gosport War Memorial Hospital case

Hullo Code A

I'm sorry for the delay in responding to you. I have been out of the office.

I understand what has been requested and why and please be assured that I am not trying to be awkward or deliberately secretive.

The way in which this case was referred to the UKCC/NMC has not been straightforward nor has consideration of it by the practice committees. It reflects the way in which the case has been handled by other agencies/organisations.

The time frame of August/September that I suggested would be when the GMC's proceedings should be drawing to a conclusion. While we are not dependent on the GMC's case, there are advantages to our awaiting its conclusion. At that time, we anticipate being in a position to write to registrants and complainants and placing the matter before the PPC. While I am the named lead administrator, for the sake of there being a central contact, this will be a combined effort with a number of colleagues. I should be in a position to give you better answers to your questions.

You will see that I have referred to "too many variables" in this case. To expand, this includes: should the GMC proceedings adjourn, we will have to rethink our next position; the outcome of a meeting with the Trust we're in the process of setting up; the availability of panellists in setting up a PPC meeting timeously.

In short, it was decided after a review meeting on 12 June 2009 amongst other things we concluded that, regrettably, all we could provide you with at the present time was limited information. I must stress that when I used the word 'speculative', I was referring to anything I gave your office and was not suggesting in any way anything else.

One thing I can add is that I have no reason to believe that any registrant has been suspended as an interim measure on the basis of this referral(s).

I would just ask to bear with me and maintain contact. I am happy to discuss anything that remains unclear in this email. Thanks.

Best wishes

Code A

From: Code A
Sent: 17 June 2009 16:08
To: Code A
Cc: Code A, Code A
Subject: FW: Gosport War Memorial story
Sensitivity: Private

Code A

I've just seen your exchange of correspondence with **Code A** regarding the Gosport case.

You may not be aware but post-Haywood, we have agreed in principle with Ian Todd that Comms needs to have much earlier intelligence about potentially difficult FtP hearings. It is quite clear from **Code A** email of 15 June that she is not intending issuing any proactive media statement re Gosport at this stage. However, we will be approached for comment and **Code A** is after some basic background information about the case, eg; the number of nurses currently under investigation, date(s) of referral, etc. I can not see how you can characterise such basic factual information as 'speculative'. It would be helpful to know why you believe that you would be better placed to provide this information in late August/early September. Can you provide this information now or not?

Code A

Code A

Nursing & Midwifery Council
23 Portland Place
London
W1B 1PZ

www.nmc-uk.org <<http://www.nmc-uk.org/>>

020 7637 7181 (switchboard)

From: **Code A**
Sent: 17 June 2009 15:54
To: **Code A**
Subject: FW: Gosport War Memorial story
Sensitivity: Private

Hi **Code A**

This is what we've been told.

Code A

Code A

From: **Code A**
Sent: 15 June 2009 17:01
To: **Code A**
Subject: RE: Gosport War Memorial story
Sensitivity: Private

Hullo

I appreciate the need for further information, but I don't want us to start providing speculative, inaccurate information, or information that we will later have to ask to be withdrawn, making us look as if we don't know what we are doing.

I anticipate being in a better position to advise you in full in late August/early September and assure you that I will do so.

I can say that, when this case comes to be considered, it will be under the 1993 Rules (so-called 'Old' rules). The practice committee that will consider this is the Preliminary Proceedings Committee. As you know, the PPC's proceedings are confidential.

Please telephone me on G Code A if you want to discuss this further.

Thanks

Code A

From: Code A
Sent: 15 June 2009 12:40
To: Code A
Subject: RE: Gosport War Memorial story
Sensitivity: Private

Hi Code A

Glad to know who the main point of contact is for this - I'll make sure the rest of the press team is aware.

I did just want to make one thing clear as I perhaps wasn't as clear in my previous email as I could have been. That is to say that we aren't intending on putting anything out pro-actively about the hearing, only that it would be helpful to know some of the basics such as the number of nurses currently being investigation, when they were referred to us, if they have an IO while we investigate and a very general timeframe (if at all possible) for the investigating procedure.

This information would really help us when responding to media enquiries about Gosport as this is exactly the type of information we get asked by journalists.

As I'm sure you are aware, the reputation of the organisation was dealt a considerable blow recently following the perceived controversial outcome of the Haywood hearing and we know that we have not been great in the past at providing responses that actually answer the questions that have been asked. There is still a great deal of work to be done across directorates to regain the public's confidence that we are here to ensure their health and wellbeing and that we listen to what they're saying to us.

One of the lessons learned from Haywood was that we need to work together smarter to identify cases that will potentially generate a lot of interest from the public and the media so that together, the teams can manage any enquiries that come in.

We already know that Gosport is a high risk case in terms of generating public interest because it has been generating interest for many years. We know the families are continuing their efforts for a police investigation into the 100+ deaths at the home and that they will be watching with great interest the proceedings currently underway at the GMC.

We expect the media will turn their attention to the NMC once the GMC has completed its case against the doctor and at present, there is a high risk of further reputational damage to the organisation if we are perceived as being unwilling to confirm at the very least the number of people we are investigating, whether or not they still have an IO and the dates they were referred to us.

Forewarned really is forearmed with cases like this so any information that can be shared without potentially jeopardising the FtP process would be greatly appreciated.

Best wishes,

Code A

Code A

From: **Code A**
Sent: 12 June 2009 11:00
To: **Code A**
Subject: FW: Gosport War Memorial story
Sensitivity: Private

Good morning

Thank you for your email.

Firstly, you can regard me as your first point of contact on this case.

Secondly, in respect of your request for further information, we don't feel we can give you any form of words at present. There are too many variables in this case. We are monitoring the progress of other bodies' proceedings and, for your information only, we anticipate that further action will be taken by this office later in the year, but we do not think it appropriate to comment any further.

I will, of course, keep you informed of developments, but please come back if there are any immediate questions.

Best wishes

Code A

From: Clare Strickland
Sent: 12 June 2009 16:05
To: **Code A**
Subject: FW: Gosport War Memorial story

For you to reply to **Code A**

Thanks

Clare

Clare Strickland

Code A

Code A

From: [Code A]
 Sent: 09 June 2009 11:25
 To: Clare Strickland
 Cc: [Code A] [Code A]
 Subject: RE: Gosport War Memorial story

Hi Clare,

If possible, it would be helpful to know how many nurses are being investigated and if possible, a projected timeframe to complete the investigation stage (I realise that may not be possible as often the speed with which investigations are carried out depends on the co operation and availability of external parties).

The story of Gosport has been floating around the press for a long time and as the GMC continues to progress with their case, it's being mentioned more and more. Once the GMC hearing completes, the focus may well turn to us.

Following Haywood, we have some work to do around regaining the public's confidence in our role so it would be helpful if we could produce some words to keep in the wings for release when necessary. It may just be something as simple as saying that we are currently investigating x number of nurses and while the time period for this is difficult to determine, we hope to complete our investigation within the next xx number of months.

With kind regards,

Code A

From: [Code A]
 Sent: 09 June 2009 10:01
 To: [Code A] [Code A]
 Cc: [Code A] [Code A]
 Subject: RE: Gosport War Memorial story

[Code A] isn't in so I've spoken to Clare Strickland. The meeting on Friday is to discuss [Code A] paperwork received and what is still outstanding etc and next steps in progressing the case. We aren't at the stage yet where we need to be looking at the public perspective angle.

[Code A]

Code A

From: [Code A]
Sent: 09 June 2009 09:11
To: [Code A]
Cc: [Code A] [Code A]
Subject: RE: Gosport War Memorial story

Perfect timing. [Code A] would it be worth one of us sitting in on this meeting? We can look at the public perspective angle which may help us develop a briefing down the line.

BW,

[Code A]

Code A

From: [Code A]
Sent: 09 June 2009 09:04
To: [Code A] N [Code A]
Subject: RE: Gosport war memorial story

A meeting has been arranged with Ian, [Code A] Clare Strickland, [Code A] [Code A] [Code A] for this Friday to discuss how we will take the case forward. [Code A] [Code A] will be the lead officers.

Code A

From: [Code A]
Sent: 09 June 2009 08:40
To: [Code A] N [Code A]
Cc: [Code A]
Subject: Gosport War Memorial story

Hi All,

This is on the BBC today <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/hampshire/8088821.stm>

Code A I thought FtP would want to know as we may get some questions off the back of it. Could you let me know who's looking after it at your end? I'm wondering if this is a case we'd benefit from regular updates about?

BW,

Code A

Code A

Nursing & Midwifery Council
23 Portland Place
London W1B 1PZ
www.nmc-uk.org <<http://www.nmc-uk.org/>>

020 7637 7181 (switchboard)

The Nursing & Midwifery Council exists to safeguard the health and wellbeing of the public. We register all nurses and midwives and ensure that they are properly qualified and competent to work in the UK. We set the standards of education, training and conduct that nurses and midwives need to deliver high quality healthcare consistently throughout their careers. We ensure that nurses and midwives keep their skills and knowledge up to date and uphold the standards of their professional Code. We ensure that midwives are safe to practise by setting rules for their practice and supervision. We have fair processes to investigate allegations made against nurses and midwives who may not have followed the Code.