

**Email Message**

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I have now completed my report to the PPC and sent the further instructions to Jo Cutts QC.

You will recall that there was one further matter that needs to be resolved, and which I have not addressed in my report. This is the Richards complaint. In 2001, the PPC considered a complaint from the relatives of Mrs Richards, and closed the case.

There is no evidence that the PPC ever re-opened the case. However, in September 2002, after the PPC adjourned the other cases, letters were also sent to Mrs Richards's relatives, informing her that the case had been adjourned.

Accordingly, Mrs Richards's relatives are under the mistaken impression that the NMC is still dealing with their complaint. This impression needs to be corrected.

The relatives are the leaders of the campaign about the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. Their campaign has led to the police investigations and the coroner's decision to hold inquests. Mrs Richards is one of the cases being considered by the GMC in its proceedings against Dr Barton. She is not one of the patients whose death will be considered by the coroner at the inquest.

My view is that given the sensitivity of this matter, it should be dealt with at director level.

Regards

Clare

Clare Strickland

Senior lawyer (hearings)

In-house legal team

**Code A**

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