

Director of Conduct  
23 Portland Place  
London  
W1B 1PZ

Code A

25 JUN 2002

Tel Code A

19th June 2002.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to register a formal complaint as to the nursing care that my mother, Mrs Dulcie Middleton, received while in The Gosport Memorial Hospital from 29th May 2001 until 16th August 2001.

My mother was of sound mind and body before her stroke on 10th May 2001, completely self-sufficient and very active.

Haslar Hospital stabilized her after the stroke, and brought her to the position where she was sufficiently fit for rehabilitation, when she was transferred to the Memorial Hospital, she was very positive and optimistic about recovery.

When she was first there she appeared to be making progress, sitting out of bed, going into the day room in a wheel chair, and having her hair washed and set.

Eating and drinking were her biggest problems, we were told by her doctor that she must have help at all times, especially with meals, as she had trouble swallowing and was very slow, but help was not forthcoming.

On one of my visits, which were every day, apart from around six missed days in three and a half months, I found my mother laying in bed, she had not been sat up, her meal was in front of her and too far away for her to reach, cutlery was missing and the bell was out of her reach on the wall so she could not call for assistance, and the meal was cold so she could not eat it.

Given the above conditions you would not expect anyone to recover, subsequently she lost weight and dehydrated, and was then administered a fluid drip and a nasal feeding tube, I am sure that none of this would have been needed if the proper nursing care had been provided.

At one point too much fluid was given, she had a fluid overload, how can this happen with a catheter in situ, and a drip, why was she not being properly monitored?

As a result of this on 4th July 2001 my mother had congestive cardiac failure, this was confirmed with examinations and chest X-Ray. Her heart, lungs and both legs were damaged

