

Norman Lamb MP

**Code A**

15 December 2009

Dear Mr Lamb

**Gosport War Memorial Hospital**

Thank you for your letter dated 17 November 2009 in respect of the above matter.

I can assure you that we have continued to work closely with the GMC, Hampshire Police and other relevant authorities throughout the history of this case. Indeed, now that the GMC have concluded their finding of fact, we are meeting with other multi-agency partners before Christmas to establish how we can best progress this matter from a nursing perspective.

As you may be aware, many of the allegations surrounding the Gosport War Memorial Hospital relate to the administration of drugs. In relation to these allegations we have had to wait for the GMC case against Dr Barton to conclude. Had it been found that the prescription of pain killing medication by Dr Barton had been reasonable in all of the circumstances then there would have been no real prospect that the administration of these drugs by the nursing staff would have resulted in an adverse finding.

I do appreciate, however, that a number of other matters should have been investigated earlier however you will appreciate that, in fairness to the nurses concerned, we would seek to group all of the allegations together into a single case rather than pursue multiple cases against each nurse depending on the nature of the allegations.

This is a distressing matter for all the friends and relatives of those who died at Gosport memorial hospital and I can assure you that this matter is receiving our upmost attention and I will write to you again early in the new year to update you on our next steps.

If you require any further information in the meantime then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you again for writing to me on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Professor Dickon Weir-Hughes  
Chief Executive and Registrar