

NMC [draft] response to Gosport case

20/04/10

~~The Nursing and Midwifery Council Following the conclusion of our investigation into nurses at Gosport War Memorial Hospital is now complete. I can confirm that we will be taking no further action.~~

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~~This was a long and very complex case ieated case involving multiple agencies, a GMC investigation into the conduct of Dr Jane Barton which concluded in February 2010, and a lengthy police investigation. These processes had to reach their conclusion before we could begin our investigation. I apologise to the family and friends of those involved for the length of these processes and the inevitable distress that this has caused and unique in the circumstances in which it was referred to the NMC, the involvement of a number of agencies, including the GMC and the way in which it developed since its referral.~~

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~~Our learning points from this case include the need for us to work collaboratively and proactively with the police, the GMC and other agencies in investigating allegations where the work of doctors and nurses is inextricably linked such as in prescribing and drug administration. We have much closer working relationships with the GMC and ACPO through MoUs with both organisations.~~

~~I fully appreciate that this case has taken longer to conclude that it should have despite having to await the outcome of coroner's inquests, police investigations and the GMC's case against Dr Jane Barton. I also appreciate that it has been particularly distressing for the families and friends involved and that the NMC has added to their distress by not keeping those with a key interest in the case better informed about developments. Mistakes were made and we have learned from them. We are continuing to modernise our processes to reduce the risk of avoidable delays in future. We have introduced an electronic case management system to make sure that we keep people appropriately informed throughout the process. We are taking a more proactive approach to investigating allegations against nurses and midwives. This includes working in collaboration with other regulators and agencies to identify and deal with issues that could be putting the public at risk at the earliest possible stage.~~

~~Our investigation was completed in April 2010 as soon as possible after the GMC's in April 2010. Having examined all of the available evidence, the independent panel that dealt with the case concluded that no further action will be taken. The case has now been completed.~~

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