

Mr Norman Lamb MP
House of Commons
London
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8 February 2010

***Nursing Times* Summit: NMC briefing meeting**

Thank you again for your time at the recent *Nursing Times* Summit. I recognise that you have on-going concerns about the approach of the healthcare regulators to the Gosport case, and I hope the meeting has helped to re-assure you that the Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) takes your concerns seriously and is taking appropriate steps to deal with the issue as quickly as possible.

As you will know from my recent letter to you on this case, following the recent conclusion of the GMC's case against Dr Barton, we are now pursuing our preliminary investigations against a number of nurses. I will update you further when I am in a position to share more information.

I fully appreciate that this difficult case has been extremely distressing for all the friends and relatives involved and the NMC has added to this distress by not keeping those with a key interest in the case better informed about developments. You have my undertaking that we will improve our approach to engaging with you and others about this case in future.

The vast majority of our cases are dealt with in a timely manner and since implementation of the action plan prepared in response to the CHRE's criticisms of our Fitness to Practise (FtP) work in 2008, we have significantly improved our FtP processes. The major organisational improvements are detailed in the enclosed briefing note for your ease of reference.

Finally, I would like to formally invite you to come to our FtP centre at 61 Aldwych, London, to see our set-up for yourself and observe at first-hand some of the improvements that we have made to our FtP service. I have asked my colleague, **Code A** to be in contact with you shortly to discuss this visit but, in the meantime, if you have any further questions or concerns about the Gosport case please feel free to contact me personally.

Yours sincerely

Professor Dickon Weir-Hughes
Chief Executive and Registrar

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