

HM Coroner
Mr David Horsley
Coroners Office
Guildhall

PRIVATE &
CONFIDENTIAL

Code A

RECEIVED
27 APR 2009

Dear Mr Horsley,

Further to my earlier call to your office some weeks ago I am writing to raise my suspicions over the death of my late father Mr. Ronald Dudley Siggins (DOB **Code A** at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital on 24th June 1999.

My father had been suffering from Alzheimer's Disease for over 10 yrs, was diabetic, had arthritis of the spine an old war injury to his leg and ischaemic heart problems I believe. My mother a retired nursing sister had been the primary carer at home with my limited support when I could. I am a retired social worker and I lived in Glor. Prior to my father's admission to hospital he had suffered a foot ulcer which was not healing due to diabetic complications, his blood sugars were abnormally fluctuating & he had become bed-ridden and incontinent. Under these circumstances the community care workers had come for a few hours a week but the service was so poor and inadequate I telephoned my father's G.P. Dr. Scott-Brown on a day we were all exhausted and struggling to cope. Dr. Scott-Brown arranged for an ambulance to have my father admitted to St. James Hospital, Portsmouth for tests and observation (mainly I believed due to the unruly blood sugar levels) after a furious conversation with a consultant who did not appear to want him admitted. Dr. Scott-Brown appeared caring and concerned. The care at St. James was average but my father deteriorated physically so was transferred to the Admissions Ward at St. Mary's Hospital Portsmouth

which seemed absolutely chaotic with only a young female doctor on duty. He was then transferred to wards B2, then B4 then 'Extor' before transfer to Gosport. War memorial over a period of several weeks.

On B2 ward (I do believe) he had 2 particularly good qualified nurses Matt and Bryony and was fed, or drips and medication and had proper care and nursing, (although with lengthy gaps of personal care and feeding also.) As feeding my father was very slow and he often refused unswirtable food (eg one day I found an assistant trying to ram a giant tablespoon of cold stinking bony fish in his mouth and he couldn't swallow and was choking) my mother and I undertook to feed him as much as possible ourselves. I offered to cook meals at home and bring them in to microwave in the staff kitchen unit and arranged this with Bryony who put up a notice over his bed advising this. When Bryony was away a very rude healthcare assistant tore it down and I was shoured at by 'Tina' to get out of their kitchen. Gradually the care and attention he received deteriorated. I met voiced my concerns to staff and asked about MRSA but was met with denials and hostility. When the staff learnt my mother was a retired nurse they snatched the notes away. By the time my father reached Extor ward he had deteriorated and seemed ill and miserable. Extor ward was the worst of the lot and seemed akin to a Russian old block prison. It was filthy, the patients were calling out in pain or for bedpans or left soaking wet or soiled. and for the most part seemed totally ignored by staff. A young healthcare assistant (Leanne) worked like a Trojan and a caring young female doctor rushed around

doing personal care tasks herself. I observed the nurse in charge Margaret in the office talking about the staff's private lives with other staff refusing to help. My father had his drip removed and we were told he was given ^{Prokin} shakes for meals; one day I was there by his bed for 5 hrs and he was given nothing they tried. They wouldn't allow us to feed him any longer but gave him nothing in replacement. My mother brought ^{him} some new pyjamas and we found them the next day on the next patient. The standards were absolutely appalling. One female doctor who was quite pleasant but I only saw briefly advised my mother to look for a nursing home ready for discharge.

My father was transferred to the Gosport War Memorial Hospital and compared with St. Mary's it seemed really good and clean on first impressions. I was so relieved to make my first visit and see my father sitting up in bed smiling and clean. He talked and greeted us for the first time - he hadn't previously spoken in weeks. He seemed quite lucid and after the previous 2 months of stress I thought we could actually start planning for the future for him. My father was in a side room alone and again I queried MRSA. I was assured there were no problems. After visiting a couple more times I found my father was never awake and instead appeared asleep all day and evening. Suddenly he seemed really still and listless and had a syringe driver at his back. I was alarmed as he had seemed so bright and improving just a short time before. I didn't see him receiving any drips or fluids and became concerned again he would starve especially as diabetic. I noticed a small notice pinned up on the noticeboard in the

Corridor mentioning the bug MRSA. Dr was vague and patronising implying this was not a serious condition 'occasionally' found in hospitals. I asked again about MRSA and met a woman doctor I took to be a consultant but I now know was not Dr. Barton I believe. She said to me 'Whats MRSA...?' I was astonished. She denied my Dad had it but just then a cleaner appeared with a bucket & mop marked that it was for infectious waste and said loudly 'ere - this ones got 'The Bug' abnt he - ... shall I clean there now?' and pointed to my father in his sideroom... Barton's face coloured red - immediately caught out in her lie to me - and furious she said 'Come to my office!' We went in and she was absolutely horrible, aggressive and saying they were the ones they were in charge my father had had MRSA on arrival they couldn't afford panic, doctor/patient confidentiality meant it wasn't always our business to know. I was really upset especially that she had lied outright to my face. She was very cold, rude and nasty and said to me to go and see my father and give him a cuddle while I could 'as he hadn't got long' and it was my duty; I was humiliated and furious. - I loved my father and always did this automatically. She talked to us like naughty schoolchildren. My sister at the time had a compromised immune system and was not supposed to be in contact with any infections, my niece and nephews were small children - no warnings were given. My father rapidly went unconscious and the nurses kept fiddling with the syringe driver. He slept deeply unconscious. When I told one nurse one evening I couldn't bear seeing him like that she said don't worry

It would be for \$ much longer and gave me a strange
smile I felt shocked and frightened as my mother
with one to go nursing experience had once told me
when she died terminal care that it often very difficult
to predict death. My father had always wanted to
leave his body to medical science (ironically he had
stored medical study brightly for years before and had been
a hospital manager most of his working life) and the
nurse very quietly said 'it wouldn't be any use and
I would be better if he was cremated. I thought this
Alzheimer condition -

most odd as I thought ^{to make sense} I felt shocked by memories of those
conversations now. Before long my father was obviously
very ill. They said to go home and they would tell us
as I wanted to stay and the next thing was a call at
night he was dead. I was ^{at the hospital} ^{at the address} ^{at how right it}
was after his apparent recovery. I fell I see Dr. Barks
covers things up. Near one day I see Dr. Barks
all with any humanity she was surely and ride to
everyone when I witnessed her behaviour and manner.

On making the register for the death certificate
I thought there was more to it. She said that we
wasn't to challenge the cause of death but my mother
so we left it. All the family fell wrong and traumatic
by the experience. I consulted my holiday and had to take a form
from worldwide Insurance to Dr. Scott - Brown
my father's G.P. He wrote a slightly digress 'cause of
death. My mother said she had visited him and he
had been very attractive and anxious giving her on all
(I don't remember the date of this whether it was before or
after my father's death or if he booked the car?)

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the details of what happened and how. My gut reaction was that many of the wider medical community knew more than they were divulging on reflection.

My father was cremated. Still traumatised some time later I phoned the Trust's Chief Exec P.A. about the negligence witnessed. She offered to arrange a meeting but I did not proceed as I was already involved with other medical negligence issues over my own situation and from personal experience thought the ^{medical} notes would immediately disappear or be tampered with and the evidence would vanish.

Several years ago I heard about the investigations on the radio and immediately my automatic thoughts were that my father was deliberately killed. I do not know if there is sufficient proof legally but will remain convinced that my father was killed at that hospital. I feel this all needs detailed independent scrutiny from an impartial investigator in the public interest.

I apologise for the lengthy detail but as I send my personal experiences and those of many of my contacts in the support groups of AVMA (Action for Victims of medical Accidents) and SINS (Sufferers of iatrogenic Neglect) suggest that sadly many doctors/nurses and hospital managers deliberately conceal the evidence once investigations begin and I thought the background history would be vital to you if you could investigate.

I hope you can do something about this; I currently have Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder re: events leading to 'suicide' after not admit of an NHS charge nurse in 1996 and events suffered myself at the hands of the NHS. I believe we are entitled to some justice for at least a little peace of mind. Yours faithfully (Mrs J.P. RANDALL)

Code A
nee SIKKINS

PRELIMINARY MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

THIS CERTIFICATE IS TO BE FURNISHED AT THE CLAIMANT'S EXPENSE

To be completed by the GP of the person whose illness or injury led to the cancellation of the holiday

Name of patient

Rowald Buxley Higgins

Age 79

Are you this patient's usual Doctor (YES/NO)

YES

1. Please state nature of illness/injury/cause of death

Acute Decompensated Heart Failure with Hyponatremia. Admitted to CCU on 15/5/99. Discharge on 16/5/99. Discharge to CCU on 16/5/99. Discharge to CCU on 16/5/99. Discharge to CCU on 16/5/99.

2. If pregnancy what is E.P.D.?

Not applicable

3. Date pregnancy confirmed

Not applicable

4. Why pregnancy necessitates cancellation of holiday?

Not applicable

5. State the date of illness/injury

15/5/99

6. Date first consulted

15/5/99

7. If the date in question 6 preceded the date of booking did you consider the patient fit to travel taking into account the country of destination and mode of transport?

Not applicable

8. Date referred to consultant

15/5/99

9. Date admitted to hospital

15/5/99

10. Date placed on a waiting list

Not applicable

11. When did you advise the claimant of the need to cancel?

15/5/99

12. How long do you consider the patient will remain unfit to travel?

N/A

13. Was the booking contrary to medical advice?

No

14. Were you consulted concerning the trip?

Not relevant

15. Has the medical condition causing cancellation been diagnosed before this episode?

YES

If YES, please provide details

16. Has the patient suffered from any previously diagnosed psychiatric condition? YES/NO. If YES, please provide details

17. If terminal prognosis please advise date ascertained

9/6/99

18. Has patient been advised - if so, when?

19/6/99

Signed (Doctor)

[Signature]

Address

Dr A Scott Brown
The Head Health Centre
The Field Place
Farnborough PO14 1TT
Tel: 01253 201201

Practice stamp

[Stamp]

Date of this will (delay claim)

19/6/99

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS MUST BE SENT IN WITH THE CLAIM FORM

- 1. A COPY OF THE DEATH CERTIFICATE, IF APPLICABLE.
- 2. THE ORIGINAL BOOKING INVOICE FROM THE TRAVEL AGENT AND TOUR OPERATOR TO CONFIRM THE FULL COSTS.
- 3. A TOUR OPERATOR'S CANCELLATION INVOICE, CONFIRMING THE CANCELLATION, THE DATE AND THE AMOUNT FORFEIT TO YOU WHICH REPRESENTS YOUR INSURANCE CLAIM.
- 4. THE ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE MUST BE ENCLOSED.

IF YOU HAVE NOT SECURED THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS OR THEY ARE NO LONGER IN YOUR POSSESSION PLEASE OBTAIN COPIES FROM THE TRAVEL AGENT THROUGH WHOM YOU BOOKED, OR FROM YOUR PARTY LEADER. A CLAIM CANNOT BE MET WITHOUT THESE DOCUMENTS.

I confirm the facts stated on this form to be true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I give authority to insurers or their representatives to contact my doctor for any additional medical information required in connection with this claim.

Code A

Signed _____ Date 13.7.99

The insurance industry operates a number of anti-fraud initiatives which include TCEWS, operated by JS Travel Management Ltd, and CTF, operated by Insurance Healthcare Services Ltd. Details of these can be provided on request. Information given on this form may be stored electronically and shared with these organisations for this purpose. If you would prefer that the information given on this form is not used you should tick this box.

Photocopy of (Slightly) check I was sent by Worldwide Travel Insurance on request