

Mrs S Armstrong

**Code A**

27 April 2009

Dear Mrs Armstrong

Thank you for your letter of 6 April 2009.

For a Coroner to investigate and hold an Inquest into a death, they must have reasonable grounds to suspect that the death is not due to natural causes.

As you'll be aware, the police investigated a very large number of deaths that occurred at Gosport War Memorial Hospital in the 1990's. In 10 of those cases, after lengthy investigation, the police uncovered evidence that suggested to me that they might not be due to natural causes. The recent Inquests were in respect of those 10 deaths.

I am conducting one further Inquest in respect of a lady who died at Gosport War Memorial Hospital in the 1990's. The circumstances of her death appear, at the moment, to be somewhat different to the others as she died after having sustained injuries in a fall. This would be a situation where if her death had happened now, I would hold an Inquest into it in any event.

I do not have any evidence before me now to give me reasonable cause to suspect that any other death at Gosport in the 1990's was due to anything other than natural causes.

Hence I do not believe I have legal grounds for conducting any further investigations/Inquests in relation to them.

Of course, if you are in possession of any evidence regarding your mother's death that you have not previously supplied to the police, then you should pass it to them at this stage for them to look at. If it raises any suspicions

about the circumstances of your mother's death, the police will inform me and I will give the matter further consideration.

I hope this information assists you.

Yours sincerely

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