

Code A

06/04/2009

South East Hampshire Area Coroners Officer
Room T20
The Guildhall
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
PO1 2AJ

Dear Sirs

For the last seven years I have lived in Cumbria and so have only recently learnt, on the national news, about the concerns of many relatives, and the inquest into the deaths of 10 people in the 1990s.

I am concerned that my mother may have suffered the same fate as the others, if indeed there was something amiss. I have always had a little nagging doubt about the circumstances surrounding Mum's death, but have tried to forget and tell myself everything was alright. However, the reports I have recently read have raised afresh the concerns I have about the circumstances of my mother's death.

My mother, Mrs Martha Peirce died aged 73 on 12th October 1994 after being put on a syringe driver while I was away for the previous weekend and unable to visit her. I had been visiting her every other day. Because I lived in Clanfield and had a family to look after I could not manage any more often. Before I went away for the weekend, I had been told by one of the Sisters that all was well with her and they did not expect any change. I was not aware of my mother being in any pain so it came as a shock to find her on the syringe driver with only days to live. At the time I feared what I would hear if I asked for the detail of why she was put on a syringe driver and so did not question the Sister who had done it.

I would very much like my concerns added to the information given to the Coroner and to be kept informed of proceedings please. If there is anyone else that should have the information about my concerns to add to the whole picture of what was going on at the hospital in the 1990s, like the police, then please will you forward a copy of this letter to the appropriate person/ people? I hope it will be possible for you to help me with this matter.

Yours faithfully

Code A

Mrs Sue Armstrong

