

Horsley, David

From: Horsley, David
Sent: 22 April 2009 14:42
To: 'Dominic Blake'
Subject: RE: BBC questions

I can't yet give a date for Mrs Richards Inquest, investigations are continuing.

Although I have not yet made a final decision on the point, given the evidence I presently have on her death I am not mindful to hold the Inquest with a jury.

At present, it is not my intention to hold any further Inquests into deaths at GWMH in the 1990's as there is not at the moment any evidence before me to cause me to suspect that they were due to other than natural causes.

David C. Horsley
H.M. Coroner
Portsmouth & South East Hampshire

-----Original Message-----

From: Dominic Blake [mailto:Code A]
Sent: 22 April 2009 14:21
To: Horsley, David
Subject: BBC questions

Dear Mr Horsley,

May I ask three quick questions?

I understand that there are to be GMC hearings in June which relate to events at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. I wouldn't expect you to comment on that, but if that's the plan I'd have thought it unlikely that the hearing could go ahead unless the inquest into the death of Gladys Richards has taken place. As that is in your area of responsibility, may I ask if you are able to give any indication of when that inquest might take place?

Secondly, it would also be very helpful to know if Mrs Richards' inquest will be heard by a jury. It is significant from our point of view, because it will determine what restrictions apply to our reporting. If there is to be a jury then the reporting restrictions imposed by the Contempt Of Court Act already apply, as proceedings are active in Mrs Richards' case. WE are keen to avoid any issues of contempt, and would appreciate your guidance on this.

Thirdly, I have been told that there are likely to be further 'group' inquests in respect of deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. Is that right?

Kind regards, Dominic Blake

Dominic Blake | Portsmouth & Isle of Wight Reporter | BBC Radio

22/04/2009

Solent

Code A