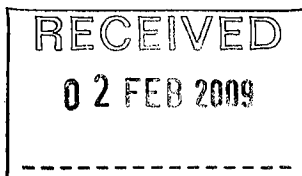




Ministry of  
**JUSTICE**



Coroners and Burials Division  
2nd Floor (2.40)  
102 Petty France  
London  
SW1H 9AJ

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**Code A**

[www.justice.gov.uk](http://www.justice.gov.uk)

David C Horsley LL.B  
HM Coroner for Portsmouth and South East Hampshire  
HM Coroner's Office  
The Guildhall  
Guildhall Square  
Portsmouth  
PO1 2AJ

28 January 2009

Dear Mr Horsley

**Operation Rochester: death at Gosport War Memorial Hospital – Mrs Gladys Richards**

I am sorry for the delay in considering your report to the Secretary of State on the above case, dated 17 November 2008.

The Secretary of State has now considered your report, and he has agreed to the issue of a direction for an inquest to be held in respect of the death of Mrs Richards.

Please see enclosed the direction under Section 15, together with a copy for your records.

Yours sincerely

**Code A**

NICK MATTHEWS  
Current Coroner Policy Team



To: David Horsley  
Her Majesty's Coroner for Portsmouth and South East Hampshire

WHEREAS You, Her Majesty's Coroner for Portsmouth and South East Hampshire, in pursuance of section 15(1) of the Coroners Act 1988, have reported to the Secretary of State that you have reason to believe that the death of

Gladys RICHARDS

has occurred in or near your district, in such circumstances that an inquest ought to be held, and that the body has been destroyed by fire;

NOW, therefore, in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 15(2) of the Coroners Act 1988, the Secretary of State hereby directs you, the said Coroner, to hold an inquest into the said death.

**Code A**

NICK MATTHEWS  
Coroners and Burials Division

Ministry of Justice  
28 January 2009





To: David Horsley  
Her Majesty's Coroner for Portsmouth and South East Hampshire

WHEREAS You, Her Majesty's Coroner for Portsmouth and South East Hampshire, in pursuance of section 15(1) of the Coroners Act 1988, have reported to the Secretary of State that you have reason to believe that the death of

Gladys RICHARDS

has occurred in or near your district, in such circumstances that an inquest ought to be held, and that the body has been destroyed by fire;

NOW, therefore, in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 15(2) of the Coroners Act 1988, the Secretary of State hereby directs you, the said Coroner, to hold an inquest into the said death.

**Code A**

NICK MATTHEWS  
Coroners and Burials Division

Ministry of Justice  
28 January 2009

