

Bindmans LLP
275 Gray's Inn Road
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Your Ref: 51192.1/SC/CHH/TK

31 October 2008

Dear Sirs

Mrs Gladys Richards, Deceased:

Further to my letter dated 7 October, I have now heard from Hampshire Police and Mrs Mackenzie and have discussed the circumstances of Mrs Richards' death with my Deputy, Mr A M Bradley (HM Coroner for North Hampshire) who will be conducting the Inquests into a number of deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital on my behalf.

As the circumstances of Mrs Richards' death appear to be from the information available to me, i.e. that she sustained a fractured neck of femur following a fall and died from bronchopneumonia due to immobility following surgery to repair the fracture, then if her death had been reported to me in the present time, I would have opened an Inquest into her death irrespective of any other issues of the sort referred to by Mrs Mackenzie in her letter to me of 23 October 2008.

Consequently, I am mindful to do so now. However, as Mrs Richards' body was cremated, I must first obtain the consent of the Secretary of State to do so under the provisions of Section 15 of the Coroners Act 1988. I shall be making the necessary application to the Secretary of State within the next few days.

If consent is forthcoming, it would be my intention to open Mrs Richards' Inquest at the earliest opportunity and to have it heard as part of the series of

Gosport War Memorial Hospital Inquests which are scheduled to be held in March 2009.

I shall let you know the outcome to my application.

Yours faithfully

David C Horsley
Tel: 023 9268 8326

Email: Code A

cc. Mr A M Bradley
Mrs G Mackenzie
Det Supt D Williams
Mr N Matthews, Coroners Unit, Ministry of Justice