

Horsley, David

---

**From:** Horsley, David  
**Sent:** 05 September 2008 11:45  
**To:** 'Iain Wilson'  
**Subject:** RE: RobertCaldwell Wilson / Gosport war memorial hospital

Dear Mr Wilson,

Thank you for your email.

As you will be aware, I was not present at the meeting on 14 August. Hence, I forwarded a copy of your email to Mr Bradley for his observations before I replied to you.

Mr Bradley has asked me to stress that he moved the hearings from October to March very reluctantly indeed. When he raised the question of hearing dates at the meeting, he went around those present taking their views initially for hearings in January. Mr Farthing, as you will know, said that March was the earliest he he could do and so Mr Bradley went around everyone again. He tells me that whilst there was obvious disappointment around the room, it was accepted by everyone that the interests of justice demanded a postponement and March was the first practical date. I understand that no-one raised any objection to March at the time.

By law, Inquests have to be fair proceedings to all involved. If someone genuinely cannot be present on a particular date, then it would not be right to proceed in their absence provided, of course, no-one else was thereby prejudiced.

Mr Bradley and I do share your disappointment. We had both hoped that the October date we envisaged for the start of the Inquests would have been achieved and verdicts on the deaths would have been reached before the end of this year.

Now that March has been fixed for the hearings, please rest assured we both are determined to adhere to that date as far as the interests of justice will allow us.

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