

David C. Horsley LLB
Her Majesty's Coroner
for Portsmouth and
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Miss V J Packman

Code A

27th August 2008

Dear Miss Packman

Re: Gosport War Memorial Hospital

Thank you for your letter of 19th August 2008.

Because of the nature of the Hearing and the fact that no evidence will be taken I was anxious that the press should not cloud the issue and hence I held the Hearing in private.

The Hearing was not in secret and I addressed the issue at the start of the Hearing by saying that whilst it was private it did not prevent anyone from discussing the matter outside or talking to the press if they so wished. It was purely the mechanics of the Pre-inquest Hearing in which I did not want outside interference.

If those concerned wish to talk to the press they are at liberty to do so and technically I do not have the power to stop them.

So far as these Inquests are concerned I have every intention of being open, frank and clear in my dealings. I appreciate what you say about disclosure but believe it is only by putting all the information together that a Jury can gain a prospective of the scale of the difficulty and from that reach true verdicts.

Yours sincerely

A M Bradley
H M Assistant Deputy Coroner
Portsmouth & South East Hampshire

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H.M. Deputy Coroner
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19.08.08

Dear Sir,

Re Gosport War Memorial Hospital

With regard to the pre-inquest hearing at Portsmouth Guildhall on 14th August 08 I was led to believe there would be no press statement issued on the hearing that took place.

The following day it was on a website and the news, as a result family friends phoned my mother to see what had happened.

My concern is that if all facts of each case are given to all parties the information is then free to disclose to the press as seems to have happened with the pre-arrest hearing.

If I took the statement you made that 'you didn't want the press involved at this stage' wrongly I apologise but could you please clarify the position for me.

Yours sincerely

VJ Packman (MISS VJ PACKMAN)