

David C. Horsley LLB
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24 February 2009

Dear Andrew

IN CONFIDENCE – Gladys Richards:

I'm enclosing a copy of a letter dated 19 February that I've received from Mrs MacKenzie.

Given what she says in the letter (and in numerous telephone calls), it seems to me that in the long run it will probably be much simpler to run this Inquest along with the other Gosport War Memorial Hospital Inquests. From what Mrs MacKenzie says, I don't think she's going to grasp the rationale of treating her mother's case differently – she certainly hasn't appreciated the difference so far.

I know that it would mean adding to your already very onerous workload on Gosport War Memorial Hospital, but I'd be really most grateful if you could please reconsider the situation whilst there's still time to tack this one on with the others.

Best Wishes,

Code A

David C Horsley

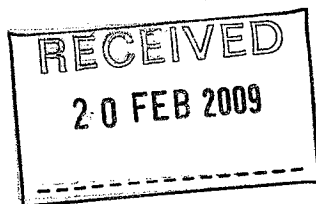
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Code A



Code A

19.02.08

Dear Mr Horsley,

Re: Mrs Gladys Richards, deceased

Thank you for the information regarding the forthcoming inquest into my mother's death conveyed to me by Valerie Maddison.

I was surprised to learn that the inquest would take place separately without a jury. Previous correspondence to the police and Ministry of Justice indicated that this was a matter of urgency and you wish the inquest to take place at the same time as the other ten inquests commencing 18th March 2009. However I am somewhat relieved as you know the law inside out and juries sometimes fail to interpret the directed points of law "correctly". Nevertheless I am advised to ask for details of "the circumstances and issues surrounding my mother's death which are different from the other deaths", which do not warrant a jury inquest.

I have been reminded by the police and others on many occasions over the past ten years that my mother was 91 years of age. I am aware that there is a fine line between causing death to avoid future distress/pain, assumed or otherwise and treating a diagnosed factual situation which will inevitably lead to death. Did Dr Barton examine my mother on arrival before she came to the conclusion that my mother was dying? What was the evidence of a massive haematoma later on - apparently none according to Mrs Lack's statement to the GMC and there was no write up on the Gosport War Memorial Hospital medical file.

I hope I will be given ample time to examine disclosures - particularly the expert medical opinions. They are opinions and not eye witness evidence. One of these opinions, I would allege, is based on a hospital note that my mother suffered from Alzheimer's dementia. Where did this information come from? Having examined medical records given to me by the police, going back ten years, I cannot find any evidence of such a diagnosis - quite the reverse. May I produce these papers? I would make a very strong allegation that this "diagnosis" was given to Hasler Hospital on my mother's admittance by my accompanying sister Mrs L Lack. This would have been accepted as I have no doubt Hasler would have been informed that Mrs Lack was a nurse. It would not be the first time that Mrs Lack diagnosed my mother's capabilities. For the most part, Mrs Lack's career in nursing after qualifying, was spent firstly in her nursing home owned by her husband and there after in other commercial enterprises. I doubt whether she attended frequent up to date training on drugs or care. She certainly did not question anything in my presence at the residential home at Lee on Solent or the Gosport War Memorial Hospital - nor when I visited and queried my mother's GP at Lee on Solent. The only queries she had were voiced after the social services department were called in by Hasler Hospital

and an inquiry was held into the residential home. The police were made aware of this. I had hoped to discuss and/or to include these matters in a statement for Chief Inspector Williams. I was denied that opportunity by Inspector Williams and notably DC Code A

I will not be represented by a solicitor or barrister at the inquest. I cannot accept a quote of £15,000 to write up a case in order to obtain "exceptional funding" as I am on guaranteed pension credit. I will not accept the advice of another solicitor to apply for funding for medical negligence, ten years after the event is ridiculous in law and it has never been my intention to pursue compensation for my mother's death. Exposure of this case is in the public interest and I will not be part of a publicity stunt for a "Charity or others". I have received application papers for exceptional funding and I note such funding may not cover all costs and a charge would be made against my only asset my home. I will not risk this. I was not a spend thrift in my pre - retirement years having been widowed 23 years ago after my husbands long illness and death at the age of 48. I had 2 young children to educate at least to their parents level.

I understand a request was made for a public inquiry with the Department of Health which was turned down. The CHI Report published in 2002 and Professor Baker's Report which will be made public after the GMC hearings should cover this matter. If ever there was a need for a public inquiry, it is into the Hampshire Constabulary's investigation into 92 deaths. I am aware that at least one family was denied the opportunity of making a statement. He forwarded his papers to Eversheds and was informed that he certainly had a case which was recommended to the GMC. Due to ill health the family has given up. I am also aware that a category 3 case, designated by Professor Robert Forest, as the most serious category was not submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service. (Ernest Stevens).

I hope I will not try your patience too much at the hearing. Do you require me to travel to Portsmouth to collect the expert opinions and other papers which no doubt are "restricted" nor could the police deliver them to me? How long will the inquest take and when? I have to book accommodation in Portsmouth near the court as I will not be travelling by car. Are there any court costs? Can I make any financial claim for expenses incurred?

Yours sincerely,

Code A

G. M MacKenzie