

The Legal Services Commission
Special Cases Unit
Exchange Tower
2 Harbour Exchange Square
London
E14 9GE

21st January 2009

Dear Sirs

**Re: Exceptional Funding Application. Gosport War Memorial Hospital
Your Ref: 68b/jhb/017/09/003/pac**

I am the Coroner charged with the task of conducting Ten Inquests in respect of people that died at Gosport War Memorial Hospital between 1995 and 2000.

Mr John White of Blake Lapthorn is representing two of the families through a Mrs Packman and a Mrs Gregory. They have applied for public funding because of exceptional circumstances and I am writing to support their application and indeed from my point of view the more families that are represented the more effective these inquests will be.

Subject to financial eligibility I would be grateful if you could consider public funding at least for the two families for whom they now appear and if that funding can be arranged I would sincerely hope they will be able to assist other families again subject to financial eligibility.

At this stage the Inquest's are scheduled to last between six and eight weeks. They will be before me sitting as Assistant Deputy Coroner in Portsmouth with a Jury.

We have already had two Pre-Inquest Hearings and the final Hearing is scheduled to start on 18th March with ten family witnesses, twenty to twenty-five professional witnesses and two experts.

I am sure that Mr White has admitted all the relevant documentation with his applications but if I can be of any other further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me. Whilst I am dealing with the matter as Assistant Deputy Coroner for Portsmouth you will see that I have written this letter from my own desk as Coroner for North East Hampshire.

Yours faithfully

AM Bradley
HM Coroner