



Strictly Private & Confidential

Mr David Horsley - Her Majesty's Coroner
for Portsmouth and South East Hampshire
Coroner's Office
Room T20
The Guildhall
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
PO1 2AJ

Our ref: SLE/GML/00492-15579/7662844 v1
Your ref:

Sarah Ellson
Partner

Code A

11 June 2008

Dear Mr Horsley

**Gosport War Memorial Hospital Inquests
General Medical Council Investigation – Dr Jane Barton**



Thank you for your letter dated 28 April 2008 and for subsequently providing a copy of your letter to the next of kin in the above matter. We also spoke on 23 May about the inquests you have now opened.

I note that you have confirmed that Mr A M Bradley (HM Coroner for North Hampshire acting as your deputy) will be responsible for the inquests into the deaths of ten people who died at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

As you are aware the General Medical Council is investigating an allegation of serious professional misconduct concerning Dr Jane Barton. Whilst the particulars of the charge have yet to be formally finalised, it appears that 8 of the patients detailed in your letter of 28 April 2008 will form the subject of our Fitness to Practise Panel Hearing which will look at 12 patients in total.

The hearing is listed to commence on 8 September 2008 and we have provisionally extended the listing so that we now expect the case to last 10 weeks, concluding on or before 14 November 2008.

We anticipate that those individuals called to give evidence at the GMC hearing, together with Dr Barton, might also be witnesses at your inquests. Therefore, as we discussed, there might be logistical difficulties if the substantive inquests you propose to conduct take place during September, October or early November 2008. You indicated that Mr Bradley might be arranging a pre-hearing review to discuss matters such as listing. The GMC would want to be represented at such a meeting. If in the meantime you can give any further information about the likely listing it would be very helpful. We understand Dr Barton's lawyers have also been requesting similar information.

If at any stage you think it would be helpful for us to discuss the matter further or for you, or Mr Bradley, to speak to anyone at the General Medical Council please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Code A

for **Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP**