Horsley, David

From: Maddison, Val
Sent: 14 May 2008 14:10
To: Elaine Williams (E-mail)
Cc: Horsley, David
Subject: Gosport War Memorial deaths

Dear Elaine

Hampshire County Council Media Department issued the following press release:

Subject: PRESS NOTICE ISSUED ON BEHALF OF HM CORONER FOR PORTSMOUTH AND
SOUTH EAST HAMPSHIRE

14/05/2008
For Immediate Release

PR 4123   PRESS NOTICE ISSUED ON BEHALF OF HM CORONER FOR PORTSMOUTH AND SOUTH EAST HAMPSHIRE

HM Coroner for Portsmouth and South East Hampshire David Horsley has this morning, 14 May 2008, opened Inquests into the deaths of 10 patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital -

Leslie Pittock died 24.1.96
Elsie Lavender died 6.3.96
Ruby Lake died 21.8.98
Robert Wilson died 18.10.96
Enid Spurgeon died 13.4.99
Elsie Devine died 21.11.99
Helena Service died 5.6.97
Arthur Cunningham died 26.9.98
Sheila Gregory died 22.11.99
Geoffrey Packman died 3.9.99

These deaths were the subject of a Police criminal investigation entitled Operation Rochester.

It is envisaged that the 10 Inquests will be held concurrently.

They are all complex matters and it is envisaged that the Inquest hearings will not take place before Autumn 2008.

The joint hearings are likely to take a number of weeks to conclude.

At present, it is likely that the venue for the hearings will be in the Coroner's Court in Portsmouth.

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To ensure that the Inquests are given the detailed care and attention they merit without undue interrruption to the ongoing heavy workload of the Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Coroner and his staff, it is intended that they will be conducted by Mr Andrew M Bradley, HM Coroner for North Hampshire, acting as a special Assistant Deputy Coroner for the Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Coroner solely in relation to them.

Please note that the coroner's office is unable to provide any further details at this time but further information will be released as it becomes available.

Kind regards

Valerie Maddison
Coroner's Administrative Officer
Tel:
ax: **Code A**