

Bradley, Andrew

From: Stephenson, Roy [Code A]
Sent: 10 March 2009 10:00
To: Avril.MacDonald [Code A]
Cc: Susan.Rolling [Code A]; Bradley, Andrew
Subject: RE: BBC enquiry re Op rochester

Media Department

Mr Bradley
FYI

This is all old news that is/has been in the public domain for a number of years it has been commented upon on a number of occasions and is available on the internet. The inquests for ten of the patients who died at Gosport War Memorial hospital commences on 18th March 2009 and is being conducted by the North East Hants Coroner Mr Bradley.

Please contact me before any reply is made to the BBC. Below is an outline of events for your information.

Following the death of a patient at Gosport War Memorial Hospital in 1998 a file of evidence was submitted to CPS for advice regarding charging.

In August, 2001 the Crown Prosecution Service advised that there was insufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of a conviction against any person.

Local media coverage of this case resulted in other families raising concerns about the circumstances of their relatives' deaths at the GWMH. As a result of this four more cases were randomly selected for review.

Expert opinions were sought of a further two medical professors. .

These reports were reviewed the Police and a decision was taken not to forward them to the CPS as they were all of a similar nature to the initial case and would therefore attract a similar reply. A decision was then made by the Police that there would be no further police investigations at that time.

Copies of the expert witness reports of Professor FORD and Professor MUNDY were forwarded to the General Medical Council, the Nursing and Midwifery Council and the Commission for Health Improvement for appropriate action.

This matter, decision not to submit the case papers to CPS, was subsequently dealt with by way of a four-year independent investigation into the police investigation by the Independent Police Complaints Commission, which found that it was satisfied that no officers involved in the investigation should be subject to any disciplinary action.

These five cases were again investigated from 2002 and a file of evidence submitted to the CPS with regard to two of the cases. The CPS again advised in 2007 that there was insufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of a conviction against any person.

10/03/2009

From: MacDonald, Avril
Sent: 09 March 2009 18:13
To: Stephenson, Roy; Rolling, Susan
Cc: Wilson, Katie
Subject: BBC enquiry re Op rochester

Roy,

I believe you are now the OIC for Op Rochester after Supt William's retirement.

I had an enquiry today from Dominic Blake, BBC Radio Solent, who said that when enquiries were first made about unexplained deaths at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital, Hampshire Constabulary commissioned a report by a Professor Ford into 5 deaths there.

As a result of his report, we apparently said there was not enough evidence to prosecute - but didn't refer it to the CPS at the time.

When the case was re-opened and a number of deaths were looked at again, the ten that we ended up re-investigating included 2 of the 5 that Professor Ford looked at originally.

His question is " Did we refer the original Ford/police evidence to the CPS and if not, why not?"

I am not in the office tomorrow, so please could you reply to either Susan Rolling or Katie Wilson who are - and cc me in?

Many thanks

Avril

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