

Dr Reid Dta

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Your reference:
 Our reference: BSPK/3000019-1307/BJZM
 Document number: 90525642_1

Code A

(Stuart Knowles) Mills & Reeve Dta

Mr D C Horsley
 HM Coroner for Portsmouth and South East Hampshire
 Coroner's Office
 Room T20
 The Guildhall,
 Guildhall Square
 Portsmouth
 PO1 2AJ

15 November 2012

Sent by email only: Code A

Dear Mr Horsley

G Ric - Inquest

I am extremely grateful for your recent call and for explaining the situation to me in respect of this inquest. I have now had an opportunity of discussing this matter with my client and, as we agreed last week, I said that I would update you with our position.

Dates of availability**Dr Ian Reid**

I have today spoken to Dr Reid and he informs me that there are no dates in the period January to April when he would not be available to attend the inquest. I have made it clear to Dr Reid that he is likely only to need to attend on one day.

Stuart Knowles

As you are aware, the Trust takes the view that it is appropriate for me to handle this inquest on their behalf, so far as is necessary (see below). It is not our intention to instruct counsel and, although I accept that the availability of advocates is not always your primary concern, it would be most cost effective for the NHS if I could continue to handle this matter. Perhaps you would be kind enough to note the dates when I am not available (subject to the points made in the next section).

- 7 and 8 January – listed for inquest
- 10 January – listed for pre-inquest hearing
- 16 January – listed for inquest
- 23 January
- 18 February to 1 March – listed for 2 week jury/prison inquest
- 6 March
- 11 March to 15 March – listed for 1 week jury/prison inquest

Mills & Reeve LLP
 78-84 Colmore Row
 Birmingham
 B3 2AB

Tel: +44(0)121 454 4000
 Fax: +44(0)121 200 3028
 DX: 707290 Birmingham 65
 info@mills-reeve.com
 www.mills-reeve.com

Birmingham Cambridge Leeds London Manchester Norwich

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At the moment I have no personal dates of unavailability from 18 March onwards.

As you can appreciate, I am likely to get listed on other matters and so I would be grateful if this matter could be listed as soon as possible.

Attendance on behalf of Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust

You might find it helpful to understand, on a without prejudice basis at this stage, the likely approach to be taken by my client. As you are aware, my client currently manages the Gosport Hospital but had no involvement in the management of the hospital at the relevant time. The successor organisation to the NHS Trust responsible at the time is currently Portsmouth PCT (known as 'NHS Portsmouth'). I understand that my client will put them on notice. However, you will be aware that the PCT will be abolished as from 1 April 2013 and its functions transferred to various other organisations. At the moment, it is not clear either to me or to my client, where responsibility for matters such as this will transfer.

Having said that, my client does take the view that it is important to assist Dr Ian Reid to help you when he gives evidence. He was a member of staff subsequently employed by the Trust.

My current thinking is, and with no discourtesy to yourself, that I am only likely to attend on the first day of the hearing and on the day when Dr Reid gives evidence. It is likely there will be an attendance on the day when you return your conclusion, though that may not necessarily be me.

In other words, at this moment, I would be content if you only considered my availability for the first day and any day when you schedule Dr Reid. Hopefully, that will make matters easier for you since, although my diary is looking busy for the first month or so next year, in fact my attendance before you is likely to be limited.

I trust that this is helpful.

As always, however, if either you or your officer require anything from me in order to assist you with the smooth running of this inquest then, of course, you should not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Code A

~~WILLIAM T. STROUD~~
Consultant
for Mills & Reeve LLP

cc: Lisa John, Coroner's Officer (**Code A**)

John, Lisa

From: Helen Antill [Code A] on behalf of Stuart Knowles
 [Stuart.Knowles@code.a]
Sent: 15 November 2012 14:38
To: Horsley, David
Cc: John, Lisa
Subject: Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust - G R - Inquest
Attachments: Scan To Email 20121115.PDF

Dear Mr Horsley

G Ric - Inquest
Our ref: BSPK/3000019-1307/BJZM

Please see the attached letter, sent on behalf of Stuart Knowles.

Kind regards

Helen

Helen Antill
 Legal Secretary
 for Mills & Reeve LLP


Tel: +(44)(0)121 456 8404

Fax: +(44)(0)121 456 8476

[Code A]
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