

**John, Lisa**

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**To:** Barker, Ian  
**Subject:** RE: Inquest - Mrs Gladys Richards

Dear Mr Barker

The Coroner is coming to the end of a two week Jury Inquest. I will of course try and 'grab' him when he comes out of Court, and request that he calls you.

Kind Regards

Lisa

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**From:** Barker, Ian [Code A]  
**Sent:** 15 November 2012 11:07  
**To:** John, Lisa  
**Subject:** RE: Inquest - Mrs Gladys Richards

Dear Ms John

Thank you for the message, but I am sorry to say that was the only period available.

I am very concerned indeed about the position which may now be reached. The Coroner has plainly felt it appropriate to postpone the inquest again – and in effect through a concern that the room available is not big enough for members of the press who may or may not attend.

By contrast, of much greater importance is that Dr Barton should have counsel to represent her who has conduct and familiarity with the matter over a period of 13 years. Anything else in terms of the present focus of the inquest would be a gross unfairness.

I have tried to reach you by phone, and will continue to do so. I would though be grateful if the Coroner could telephone me to discuss the position.

With kind regards

Ian Barker

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**From:** John, Lisa [Code A]  
**Sent:** 15 November 2012 10:59  
**To:** Barker, Ian  
**Subject:** RE: Inquest - Mrs Gladys Richards

Hello Mr Barker

As there are lots of dates to avoid to consider, it may not be possible to set the Inquest just for that two week slot? Would it be possible for you to also give us dates to avoid for the March and April period please? Could this be submitted as soon as possible please?

Regards

Lisa JOHN  
 Coroners Officer  
 Portsmouth & South East Hampshire

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**From:** Barker, Ian [Code A]  
**Sent:** 12 November 2012 13:36

**To:** Horsley, David; John, Lisa  
**Subject:** RE: Inquest - Mrs Gladys Richards

Dear Mr Horsley

Thank you for your email, and I am obviously very concerned to see the position.

Can I at least deal on behalf of Dr Barton with dates during the period you have mentioned. There is a slot of two and a half weeks which would be possible from 13<sup>th</sup> February through to the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. I hope that assists and will be possible for others.

I look forward to hearing from you and/or your officer Mrs John as soon as possible.

Kind regards

Ian Barker

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**From:** Horsley, David [Code A]  
**Sent:** 12 November 2012 09:07  
**To:** 'White, John'; 'Davies Emma'; Barker, Ian; 'stuart.knowles' [Code A]; 'Jacqueline Haines'  
**Cc:** John, Lisa  
**Subject:** Inquest - Mrs Gladys Richards

As you will be aware, this Inquest is scheduled to commence on 3 December 2012. I had hoped to accommodate the Inquest in a room with hearing loop facilities to accommodate Mrs McKenzie's hearing difficulties. However, no such room was available for the period of the Inquest and as an alternative I was planning to hold the Inquest in my small courtroom in Portsmouth Guildhall. Although it has no facilities for the hard of hearing, I hoped it would give Mrs McKenzie the best chance of being able to fully participate in the proceedings.

Mrs McKenzie has now informed me that a larger room will be needed as she anticipates there will be considerable numbers of the public and the media attending the hearing. Quite clearly, my courtroom could not cope with anything like a large number of people. There are no other premises available to me at short notice that could.

To avoid having to turn away persons who wish to attend, it is with great regret that I must therefore postpone the start of the Inquest to obtain larger accommodation that will, I hope, meet both the requirements of capacity and Mrs McKenzie's hearing difficulties. I have tried to find such accommodation at short notice but this has not been possible.

I fully appreciate and apologise for the inconvenience this will cause to other interested persons and I recognise the need to proceed as quickly as possible to conclude Mrs Richards' Inquest. I can make myself available to hear the Inquest at any time during the period 28 January 2013 and 12 April 2013, barring 8 February, 4 March and 18 March. Please may I ask you/Counsel instructed by you to let me or my office know at the earliest opportunity which, if any, dates in this period when you/Counsel could not attend the hearing?

I am away from the office for the next week as I am engaged in a lengthy Inquest.

Therefore, please could you respond to Mrs Lisa John, my Coroners Officer? Her email address is - [Code A]

David C. Horsley, LL.B, Solicitor  
 H.M. Coroner  
 Portsmouth & South East Hampshire

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