

**URGENT**

Mr D Horsley  
 Coroner  
 Room T20  
 The Guildhall  
 The Guildhall Square  
 Portsmouth  
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**BY LETTER AND FAX**

**FAX NUMBER:** Code A



Our Ref: 558203/000001/JCW/RICHARD/JDB

Your Ref:

26 May 2009

Dear Sirs

**Our Client Mrs Gladys Mabel Richards (deceased)**

We write further to our recent telephone conversation and correspondence. We understand that the Coroner is now reviewing matters generally.

We are informed by the General Medical Council (GMC) that the disciplinary hearing in respect of Dr Barton will start on 8 June 2009. It is anticipated that issues relevant to the death of Gladys Richards (deceased) will be dealt with in evidence on 12 June 2009. The GMC has asked Mrs Gillian MacKenzie to give evidence.

Mrs Mackenzie's position is that the GMC hearing in respect of issues relating to Gladys Richards (deceased) should not take place until after that Inquest. She has now asked us to explore bringing a Judicial Review against the GMC's decision to proceed. Her reasons are that :-

1. It is still open to you to decide to call a Jury for the Inquest. She believes that a public hearing at the GMC will prejudice the prospects for the Inquest hearing, because the Jurors may have been exposed to publicly available information from the GMC hearing.
2. In correspondence dated 19 March 2009 and 12 February 2009 from yourselves it has been stated that the background and circumstances of the death of Gladys Richards (deceased) are different to those of the ten deceased dealt with at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital Inquest hearing on 18 March 2009 by Mr Bradley.

We apologise for the urgency. However, in the circumstances please can the Coroner indicate :-

- (a) If it is his preference that the GMC hearing into the death of Gladys Richards (deceased) should be deferred until after he has held his Inquest into her death; and
- (b) If he were to decide to summon a Jury, does he consider that the risk of exposure of the Jury to information from the GMC hearing would justify deferring it until after the Inquest.

The GMC hearing is now only a matter of days away. We would be grateful if the Coroner would kindly consider this letter and indicate his view as a matter of urgency.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards.

Yours faith

**Code A**

Blake Laptorn

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