

Blake Laphorn
New Kings Court
Tollgate
Chandler's Ford
Eastleigh
Hampshire SO53 3LG

Your Ref: 558203/000001/JCW/RICHARD/HP

24 April 2009

Dear Sirs

Gladys Richards – Inquest:

I refer to your letter of 23 April and my telephone conversation with your Mr White on 24 April 2009.

As stated on the telephone, I have no view either way as to whether the GMC hearing for Dr Barton scheduled for next June is postponed. I do not believe it is a factor which affects my own investigations. However, given the workload of my office it is unlikely that Mrs Richards' Inquest will take place before the autumn.

As also stated on the phone, I am still investigating this case and at present have made no decisions as to the evidence I will hear. As matters crystallise, I will let you know.

I welcome the fact that you have been instructed by Mrs MacKenzie. It will, I believe facilitate my investigation. However, you must note that Mrs MacKenzie contacted my office again after my phone call to Mr White. Please impress upon your client that my staff and I have approaching 3,000 cases referred to us each year and I conduct over 300 Inquests every year. Each case involves a bereaved person like your client and all of those cases are, from my standpoint, equally deserving of attention as that of her mother.

I have already told her myself that silence from my end does not mean inaction on my part. I will contact her – via yourselves – when I have something of importance to communicate. She must allow me to deal with her case in the way that I deal with all the others. It is extremely frustrating and counterproductive for her to personally and constantly contact my staff about it. Her doing so does not make things happen any faster but simply diverts them from dealing with other equally important cases.

Yours faithfully

David C Horsley

Tel:

Email: