

**A.M. BRADLEY**



**H.M. CORONER**

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Your Ref: **BSPK/3000019-1151/PJE/BJZM**

8th October 2008

Dear Sirs

**Re: Gosport War Memorial Inquests**

Thank you for your letter of 6<sup>th</sup> October received by fax. Let me deal with the matters as you raise them:-

**Interested Parties**

I am quite content for Hampshire PCT and Portsmouth Hospital NHS Trust to be Interested Persons in these proceedings. I have been in correspondence with Portsmouth Health Care NHS Trust at Queen Alexandra Hospital Cosham directly and I presume inter alia that they are your clients.

**Representation**

Field Fisher Waterhouse Portland Tower Portland Street Manchester M1 3LF  
Sarah Ellison represents the GMC

Mr Barker of MDU Services Ltd 230 Blackfriars Road London SE1 8PJ represents  
Dr Barton.

Blake Laphorn Tarlo Lyons New Court 1 Barnes Wallis Road Segensworth Fareham  
Hampshire PO15 5UA represent the estates of Elsie Devine, Sheila Gregory, Robert  
Wilson, Arthur Cunningham, Leslie Pittock and Geoffrey Packman.

I am in correspondence with the Nursing & Midwifery Council directly at 23 Portland  
Place London W1B 1PZ.

I am in correspondence with the other four families of the deceased directly.

**Scope of the Inquiry.**

I am enclosing note of the Pre-Inquest Hearing from which you will see I will be sitting with a Jury.

I have not been directed to Article 2 but I am in full agreement that it is not engaged on the basis of the authority that you quote.

**The Pre-Inquest Hearing (see above)****Listed Inquests**

Inquests have been opened into the deaths of Leslie Pittock, Elsie Lavender, Helena Service, Ruby Lake, Arthur Cunningham, Robert Wilson, Enid Spurgeon, Geoffrey Packman, Elsie Devine and Sheila Gregory. All ten Inquests have been adjourned and it is those adjournments that I am now charged to deal with.

There have been requests to consider other deceased but on the Order of the Secretary of State I am limited to these ten.

**Documents**

I met with the police on Wednesday afternoon. I have prepared Advanced Disclosure which comprises three lever arch files and I have asked the police to undertake the necessary preparation. As soon as that has been done I will provide copy documents for all those concerned.

**Witnesses**

I have prepared a witness schedule and have statements from all those concerned. You may wish to consider that once the list is in your hands.

**The Post Mortem examination reports**

I believe that Mr Cunningham was the only person subject to post mortem examination and a copy of the pathologist report is included within the papers.

**Medical Records**

These should all be in the hands of the police and I was proposing to arrange access to those but I suspect that will be a fairly major undertaking.

**Experts**

The two experts upon whom I intend to rely are Professor Black and Doctor Wilcock and their statements will be disclosed.

**Format of the Hearing**

I have requested Court Accommodation from 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009 for six weeks and that time estimate is given on the submission of the Interested Persons. There are Ten

Inquests that the Jury will have to consider and I propose that those should be run concurrently.

I will take all generic evidence and then deal with individual matters in each case.

**Rule 37**

The witness list details those witnesses who I propose calling and those I propose adducing under Rule 37 although I have yet to receive submissions.

**The Police**

The person in charge of the Enquiry is Detective Superintendent David Williams from the Major Crime Department at Fratton Police Station. Police continue in position as my Officers for these purposes. I do not have any contact with the CPS.

I did put the NHS on notice and wrote to QA Hospital but that clearly did not arrive with the right person because I subsequently received representations from Strategic Health Authority but that was after the Pre-Inquest Hearing.

Hopefully matters will become clearer once Disclosure is forthcoming and I will ask the police to deal with that as quickly as possible.

Yours faithfully

A M Bradley  
HM Assistant Deputy Coroner  
Portsmouth & SE Hants

Enc: