

Skye Sue - Legal Services Manager

From: Radway Patricia - Head of Governance
Sent: 04 September 2008 10:30
To: Skye Sue - Legal Services Manager; Humphrey Lesley - Divisional General Manager;
 Deeks Mary - Hampshire PCT(NFPCT) External
Cc: Mellor Peter - Company Secretary
Subject: FW: GWMH draft letter to Coroner

Importance: High

Dear All

Sue I have updated letter to underline that the original was not addressed to individuals but to a circulation (which I think added to problems).

Mary following our brief discussion on Monday and to explain: the letter was addressed to a circulation list which included Portsmouth Healthcare Trust. We are assuming this letter was sent to their former HQ at St James and that a staff member forwarded it to Ian who was Medical Director at the time of GWMH issues. Ian quite naturally would not assume he was required to action and did not raise it with us until after the meeting had taken place and the article appeared in the newspaper.

We have therefore drafted the attached for signature by Richard (if he is happy with it).

Also we discussed at our internal meeting the issue of contacting our witnesses, PHT have developed a system with Mr Horsley the Portsmouth Coroner whereby contact in relation to witness appearances is made via Sue Skye. We would like this to continue but perhaps for consistency keeping the key point of contact as Richard and then anticipating you will on his behalf make contact with Sue. They are bringing this for discussion at the Friday meeting.

Also, although RS is point of contact for coroner on the matters, we need a system to ensure that all stakeholding organisations are then forwarded such correspondence. = can we agree how that will happen on Friday (I have sent apologies).

Regards
 Patricia

Cc Peter for information and to note the letter from Coroner which was never addressed to CEO.

From: Skye Sue - Legal Services Manager
Sent: 03 September 2008 16:23
To: Radway Patricia - Head of Governance; Humphrey Lesley - Divisional General Manager; Dowd Ann - Dr
 Wright Janet - PA to Head of Governance
Subject: GWMH draft letter to Coroner
Importance: High

Further to this mornings meeting, here is the draft letter. Can you let me know if you are happy with it please before Friday.



DraftCoronerltr030
 908.rtf

Sue Skye
 Legal Services Manager
 Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust

Code A

5 September 2008

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr A Bradley
C/o Assistant Deputy Coroner for Portsmouth & South East Hampshire
Guildhall
Portsmouth
PO1 2AJ

Dear Mr Bradley

Gosport War Memorial Hospital (GWMH) Inquests

Further to my letter to you of 27 August, it has recently come to my attention that an invitation to attend the pre-Inquest hearing on 14 August was sent from your office to the "Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust". As you will note from my previous letter of (include date) that organisation was disestablished as part of the health reorganisation in 2001.

A copy of the letter, addressed to a circulation which did not include this Trust, was forwarded, possibly by staff at the St James Hospital, to one of the Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust's Consultant Geriatricians based at Queen Alexandra Hospital. He believed that it had been copied to him for information only and that the Trust was already aware of it. Unfortunately as you know, this was not the case and none of the health stakeholding organisations (outlined in my previous letter) had an opportunity to attend your meeting in August.

In these circumstances, we would very much appreciate the opportunity to meet with you as soon as possible, since, as indicated to you in my previous letter, we wish to do all we can to assist you with your investigation and support the smooth running of the Inquests for all parties. We believe we can do so only if we are fully aware of your *intentions with regard to the scope and running of the inquiry*. We would also welcome the opportunity to discuss witnesses and documentary evidence with you.

You may have appreciated that the transfer of responsibilities of the various NHS organisations involved since the period in question has been quite complex and we would be happy to clarify this for you also.

In addition, we would welcome a copy of any minutes that have been prepared from the 14 August hearing if possible please.

As requested in my previous letter, the GWMH Steering Group would like any future communication to be via me and we look forward hearing from you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Samuel
Director of Corporate Affairs
Hampshire PCT
For and on behalf of GWMH Steering Group