

Skye Sue - Legal Services Manager

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
Cc: 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 now know from my earlier letter, that organisation no longer exists. It is not clear to which address the invitation was sent, but a copy of it did arrive with one of the Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust's Consultant Geriatricians based at Queen Alexandra Hospital, who believed that it had been copied to him for information only and that the Trust was already aware of it and would be sending representatives to the hearing. Unfortunately as you know, this was not the case and there was no representation from any of the NHS organisations involved.

In these circumstances, we would very much appreciate the opportunity to meet with you as soon as possible as we believe that we can best assist you with your investigation and ensure the smooth running of the Inquests for all parties 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