

Skye Sue - Legal Services Manager

From: Deeks, Mary [Code A]
Sent: 27 August 2008 11:46
To: Smith Ben - Risk Manager; Long Susannah - Business Assurance Manager; Jeffs Justina - Associate Director of Governance; Radway Patricia - Head of Governance; Skye Sue - Legal Services Manager; Forsyth Pat - Communications Manager; Humphrey Lesley - Divisional General Manager; Watson Catherine - Hants PT(SW) External; Samuel Richard - Hampshire PCT External; Tiller Sara - Hampshire PCT(HPCT) External; Williams Elaine - Hampshire PCT (HPCT) External; kbhogal([Code A]) Woodland Betty - PCT Trainer; jonathan.green([Code A])
Cc: Wright Janet - Secretary
Subject: Letter to coroner

Dear All

I am attaching a letter which has been written to go to Mr Bradley, the Coroner.

Can you check it and let me know if you are happy with it as soon as possible, so that it can be sent.

If people are away on holiday, I shall take it as OK to send if someone from each organisation has OKd it, rather than wait for everyone to respond. We should probably get it off sooner rather than later.

Thanks for your help, and apologies for the delay.

Regards

Mary Deeks
Project Officer - GWMH
Hampshire Primary Care Trust

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27/08/2008

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27 August 2008

Mr Andrew Bradley
Her Majesty's Coroner for North East Hampshire
Goldings
London Road
Basingstoke
RG21 4AN

Dear Sir

Gosport War Memorial Hospital ("GWMH")

I write in my capacity as Chair to the GWMH Steering Group that has been set up by the four NHS organisations who were involved with the provision of care and treatment to the 10 patients who died at Gosport War Memorial Hospital in the 1990's and in respect of whom inquests have recently been opened and adjourned.

Staffing arrangements and responsibility for provision of services including patient care have transferred between a number of organisations following the dissolution of Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust on 31 March 2002 and it is with a view to ensuring the co-ordination of information and documentation across all successor bodies as well as the facilitation of information to you, that the four principal NHS bodies have set up the Steering Group and agreed that I should be your first point of contact in relation to any information required by you in connection with the inquests.

The four principal NHS bodies are: Hampshire Primary Care Trust (incorporating Fareham and Gosport PCT and East Hampshire PCT); Hampshire Partnership NHS Trust; Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust; and Portsmouth City Teaching Primary Care Trust.

By way of background, it may assist you to know that whilst I currently hold the post of Director of Performance and Standards at Hampshire PCT, between 2001 and 2004 I held the post of Assistant Chief Executive at the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority. That role included responsibility for the commissioning of inquiries and investigations and consequently I do have first hand knowledge of the investigation into events at GWMH as I was responsible for liaising with the Police and the Commission for Healthcare Inspection around their respective investigations into the care and treatment of the 10 patients.

As I understand it, contact has been made with the families of the patients whose deaths are subject to inquiry although contact is yet to be made with the NHS organisations on whose behalf I write. I am not sure whether it is your intention to meet with the NHS bodies involved as you have with family members to outline the process and to identify what information you require and how you intend to proceed, or whether you intend to call a pre-inquest review meeting to address these matters, particularly on the question of witnesses as a number of whom have since moved or retired and in some instances are themselves deceased.

Any indication you can give as to how you intend to proceed would be appreciated. In the meantime, if you need any information from any of the four NHS bodies identified above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

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