

Skye Sue - Legal Services Manager

From: Skye Sue - Legal Services Manager
Sent: 04 June 2008 14:42
To: Coroner (E-mail)
Subject: 2 issues

Dear Mr Horsley

Could I raise two issues with you please:-

1. Workload - as you know, the workload coming to the Trust from your office has diminished recently because of your staffing problems. However, we are a little unclear as to what will happen in the future. Presumably you will have a backlog of Inquest dates to arrange when you are fully staffed, but we wondered if there will also be a backlog of new cases in similar numbers to those received prior to your staff shortage, or if in fact we have been receiving all the new cases that you have had?

You will understand that we are trying to gauge our future workload and plan how we will deal with it if we are going to have a rush of work in a short period of time once you have been able to recruit more staff. Any estimates you can give us in this respect would be very helpful.

Gosport War Memorial Hospital Inquests

Before you went on holiday, you announced that you had opened Inquests into the deaths of 10 patients at GWMH who were cared for by the Medicine for Older People service which at the time of the treatment in question was managed by the East Hants PCT, and that you had arranged for these Inquests to be conducted by Mr Andrew Bradley, HM Coroner for North Hampshire. You may or may not be aware that this Trust has now taken over the management of Medicine for Older People and will therefore also be managing these Inquests (with or without assistance from the PCT). Once again this raises resource issues for us and although I note that you have promised to provide further details as they become available, I wonder if you could just confirm whether you think that realistically these Inquests will take place in Autumn 2008 or whether it is likely to be much later than that, bearing in mind that we are already in June?

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Sue Skye
 Legal Services Manager
 Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust

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