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**Code A**

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To Chief Executives of  
Hampshire Primary Care Trust  
Portsmouth City Teaching Primary Care Trust  
Portsmouth Hospitals Trust  
Hampshire Partnership Trust

Dear Colleague

**RE: Coroner's inquests into ten deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital 1996-98, scheduled to start on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

In July of this year a Stakeholders' Steering Group was set up to enable co-ordinated preparations for these inquests by NHS organisations in SE Hampshire. I am attaching a copy of the agreed terms of reference for this group, for your information.

In addition, I am attaching an update of what has been achieved by this group to date, and what is yet to be completed. The major piece of outstanding work is our responses as NHS organisations to the recommendations of the 2002 CHI report into services at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. The SHA is asking for each Trust Board's approval of these responses to be submitted to them by the third week in December, enabling them to pass them through their own Board. This is a challenging deadline, but the outcome is something that will give us all reassurance as the time for the inquests to start is fast approaching.

I hope that you find that these arrangements are all satisfactory, but do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries about this approach.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Samuel**  
Director of Corporate Affairs