

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