



Council for Healthcare Regulatory
Excellence
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Hampshire Constabulary

Chief Constable Alex Marshall

Serious Crime Review Team
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August 16, 2010

Dear Briony,

Operation Rochester - Investigation into deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital

In September 2009 Chief Constable Alex Marshall wrote to a number of families connected with the above case, informing them of his decision to refer the transcripts of both H.M Coroners inquests and the General Medical Council Fitness to Practice Hearings to the Crown Prosecution Service. The purpose of this course of action was to invite the Crown Prosecution Service to consider any new information that may have arisen from either the inquests or the regulatory hearings that could have a bearing on potential criminal proceedings.

This review has now concluded and I wanted to write to you personally to inform you of their decision.

The Crown Prosecution Service considered all of the matters which arose from the evidence presented during both the inquest and GMC proceedings and have reached the following conclusions.

In the case of each deceased patient, the essential balance of the expert evidence remains the same. Where the opinions of the experts have been revised or amplified, the effect has been to underline the difficulty in this case of proving negligence, causation and gross negligence to the criminal standard.

This being the case, there remains in relation to Dr Barton no realistic prospect of conviction for the offence of gross negligence manslaughter.

This decision by the Crown Prosecution Service brings to an end the eleven year investigation by Hampshire Constabulary into allegations of criminal intent connected to the deaths of patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

Yours sincerely

Code A

Dave Grocott
T/DCI Operation Rochester

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