

# H A M P S H I R E C o n s t a b u l a r y

Chief Constable Paul R. Kernaghan CBE QPM LL.B MA

Our Ref. :

Your Ref. :

Fareham Police Station

Quay Street

Fareham

Hampshire

PO16 0NA

Professor R. Baker  
 Dept of Health Services  
 Leicester General Hospital  
 Gwendolen Rd  
 Leicester  
 LE5 4PW

Tel: 0845 045 45 45

Direct Dial:

Fax: 023 9289 1663

Email:

**Code A**

12 December 2005

Dear Professor Baker

## Operation Rochester

Thank you for taking the time to compile a report regarding the request for clarification from my colleague Detective Constable Anthony Tenison. I've had an opportunity to read your views in relation to the cases of Arthur Cunningham & **Code A** and would ask if you could now prepare a statement of evidential use that could be used in the event of criminal proceedings arising from the case of **Code A**. This would be in addition to the statement you prepared in September last year.

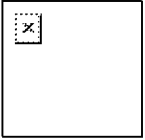
A brief resume of our investigation is as follows.

Operation ROCHESTER is an investigation by Hampshire Police Major Crime Investigation Team into the deaths of a large number of elderly patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. (GWMH) It is alleged that elderly patients who were admitted to the GWMH between 1996 and 1999 for rehabilitative or respite care, were inappropriately administered Diamorphine by use of syringe drivers, resulting in their deaths.

This investigation has been running for some considerable time now and has utilised the skills of a number of medical experts in various fields. Whilst you have not been formally instructed by the investigative team you have provided a number of reports as an expert in your own discipline to various parties assisting with the whole investigation.

One of my roles within the investigation is the briefing and coordination of all potential expert material. In doing this I have to be able to audit and demonstrate what reference material has been used and where the evidence ultimately is elicited from. I'm aware that you have conducted your own enquiries on behalf of the Chief Medical Officer Sir Liam Donaldson, but I have no idea what information you have seen or been given access to specifically in relation to Mr Cunningham or **Code A**.

It would be beneficial therefore for all concerned if I could invite you to complete your report following the template we have utilised for all medical experts. This is providing a demonstrable and uniformed approach for everybody. I'm sure that you would agree, each individual facet of medicine can be very complex, especially when it comes to explanation in the written format.



# H A M P S H I R E   C o n s t a b l a r y

---

The template follows a very standard layout which I'm sure you will be familiar with. In addition to the template I will also send you a copy of the guidance which I have provided to every medical expert required to complete a report. Not every expert has had the same level of interaction with the police as you, but I always supply a copy of this guide as a way of introducing some of the areas that I have to consider.

At present my enquiries centre on the care and treatment of **Code A** and I would ask if you could restrict your comments purely to his case.

In order to assist you further I will arrange for you to receive a copy of all the medical records that the police hold in relation to **Code A** I will also include a copy of a full chronology of the treatment of **Code A** whilst he was a patient at both Gosport and Queen Alexandra hospital. This chronology is paragraphed and page referenced for ease of reference.

In brief I would like you to review the medical records of **Code A** and hopefully address the following issues. The questions posed are,

1. **Certified cause of death.** In this case was the certified cause of death supported by the medical history of the patient?
2. **Prescription of opiates and sedatives.** In the case of **Code A** was his prescribing in accordance with his clinical need?
3. In your statement (080904) you refer to patients who were administered opiates and eventually died who may have recovered and left hospital had they not received this medication. In your opinion did **Code A** fall into this category?

In addition to compiling a report you will need to keep all notes you make in relation to this case should they be needed to be disclosed in the future in the event of criminal proceedings. These notes will need to be made available to the police in this event.

If there is anything at all that I can do to assist or clarify further please feel free to contact me on any of the above numbers or my mobile: **Code A**

Yours Sincerely

Dave Grocott  
Detective Inspector Major Crime