

From: Baker, Prof R.
Sent: 09 September 2003 12:10
To: Code A
Subject: RE: FW: Gosport War Memorial

Lee

Thanks for your response. My reservation with simply saying that I will be formally handing over the report to the Department soon is that it would suggest I have been extremely slow in undertaking this work.

I agree that the July version was submitted on the basis that it would be reviewed by the solicitors, and that modifications might then be needed. Would it be acceptable to say that the report is more or less finalised, but that some final checks on details are being carried out?

The associated question is whether the solicitors will give approval to publication of the report at all, since a police investigation is underway and there may be an issue in relation to a potential future prosecution. Any response from me might have to allow for the possibility that the solicitors would object to publication, in which case the 'final checks' would cover any future announcement about legal advice preventing immediate publication.

What do you think?

Richard Baker

Code A

-----Original Message-----

From: Code A
Sent: 09 September 2003 11:08
To: Baker, Prof R.
Subject: Re: FW: Gosport War Memorial

Richard,

Would it be possible to say that you are planning to formally hand over the report to the Department very soon? It is certainly the understanding of Janet Walden, Mike Evans and the CMO that the version received on 3 July was a draft intended for legal scrutiny rather than the final version of the report, because if the Department's solicitors found anything that wasn't factually correct, then it could not be the final version. Apologies if this was not your understanding.

The draft is still with our lawyers - summer leave has not helped our cause - but we hope to be able to get back to you soon. For consistency it would be greatly appreciated if you could provide the line above.

Many thanks

Lee

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