
From: Code A
Sent: 11 August 2009 10:50
To: Baker, Prof R.
Subject: RE: GOSPORT WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Professor Baker

My apologies for not being in touch for some time.

As you know, we had thought we might now be able to make your GWMH report publicly available as the ten inquests had been concluded and Dr Barton's GMC hearing was under way (we would have delayed releasing the report until after the hearing). However, we've since heard that the Portsmouth coroner has decided to hold a further inquest, into the death of Gladys Richards, as I understand it she was the woman whose care first led to the police becoming involved. When we heard of this inquest - and there's no date for it yet - we checked with our lawyers and have been given clear advice that it would be inappropriate to release your report. Anyone who asks to see the report under the Freedom of Information Act will be told that it's being withheld as releasing it would be prejudicial to the administration of justice.

We've told the CMO of this latest legal advice.

I understand that the GMC hearing is still on track to conclude by the end of next week.

Please let me know if I can be of any further help.

Alistair Brechin
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