
From: Code A
Sent: 08 March 2013 13:51
To: Code A
Subject: REVIEW OF DEATHS AT GOSPORT WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Dear Professor Baker

I am e-mailing with reference to the review you carried out at the request of Sir Liam Donaldson of deaths of patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

You will be aware that it was always Sir Liam's intention that the report should be made public. However, as I am sure you are also aware the police were concerned that the publication of your review might potentially prejudice their investigation into the deaths and any possible prosecutions which might arise. In the light of these concerns the Department of Health agreed not to publish the report. The Department has received several requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the review to be published. The Department's response has been to invoke the exemption under FoI legislation that publication would be "prejudicial to the administration of justice".

We understand that the last outstanding inquest into the deaths at Gosport Hospital into the death of Gladys Richards is likely to be held and concluded next month. If the inquest concludes that no further investigations are necessary the FoI exemption would lapse and the Department would move forward to exploring publication of your report.

My purpose in making contact is to ask whether there are any issues you would like to raise.

I understand that your report also contains information which is protected from disclosure by the Data Protection Act 1998. The Department will therefore also need to consider whether publication of the report would be prejudicial to Dr Barton and whether despite her having accepted voluntary erasure from the medical register and retired, she would wish to have the opportunity to comment prior to publication.

Please contact me if there is anything you would like to discuss.

Gerard

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