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**From:** McKinney, Emma <[redacted] **Code A**>  
**Sent:** 15 October 2013 16:20  
**To:** Renyard, Jenny (Southern Health); Bliss, Nicola  
**Subject:** FW: Teleconference re Gosport WM Hospital

**Importance:** High

**Categories:** Urgent

Think you both probably need to be involved in this. Can you let me know your availability?  
 Jen- I'm happy to cover the Tuesday dates if these are the preferred options.

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**From:** Kerwood Elizabeth (NHS SOUTH EASTERN HAMPSHIRE CCG) [mailto:€[redacted] **Code A**>  
**Sent:** 15 October 2013 16:11  
**To:** Barker David - Associate Director - Communications and Engagement; Stratford Allison - Associate Director of Communications and Eng; Groves Graham (NHS ENGLAND); McKinney Emma - Head of External Communications  
**Subject:** Teleconference re Gosport WM Hospital  
**Importance:** High

Dear all,

You may have seen that there is the prospect of further enquiry or investigation into the care and treatment of patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital between 1988 and 2000.

The Professor Baker Audit was released by the Department of Health on 2 August 2013 (see link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gosport-war-memorial-hospital-deaths-of-patients>), Norman Lamb, Minister for Care and Support, met with the relatives of individuals who died at the Hospital and (as reported in the Independent) stated "I am exploring options for how we can establish all the facts in relation to this scandal. I am deeply concerned by the findings off the Baker report." He added: "I am also conscious that a lot of documents remain unpublished. I want openness so we can establish all of the facts."

The Portsmouth News reported that families were 'told they could ask for a full public inquiry, a full independent investigation, or an independent panel, similar to the Hillsborough investigation. I have always said there should be a full-on public inquiry and a criminal investigation, added Mr Wilson. A full inquiry would be very long-winded and expensive, so I don't know which way it will go.' Gosport MP Caroline Dinenage said: 'I would prefer option two or three, rather than a full inquiry. It would be expensive and distressing for families.'

In the light of this reporting, it is prudent to assume that there will be further scrutiny of matters relating to GWMH. The three reported options are:

### Public Inquiry

A Tribunal of Inquiry (Public Inquiry) is an official review of events or actions ordered by the government. A public inquiry accepts evidence and conducts its hearings in a public forum. Interested members of the public and organisations may not only make (written) evidential submissions as is the case with most inquiries, but also listen to oral evidence given by other parties. Recent inquiries have included Mid-Staffordshire Hospital, Contaminated Blood Products and the Iraq War.

### Independent Investigation

These are most often used in the NHS to undertake an independent investigation 'when a homicide has been committed by a person who is or has been under the care, i.e. subject to a regular or enhanced care programme approach, or specialist mental health services in the six months prior to the event'. A small independent investigatory team is established which conducts their evidence gathering in private but ultimately makes the findings of the report public (example reports attached <http://www.england.nhs.uk/publications/invest-reports/>)

**Independent Panel**

The most notable of these in recent years has been the Hillsborough Independent Panel (<http://hillsborough.independent.gov.uk/>). The panel was established by UK government to oversee the release of documents related to the 1989 Hillsborough football disaster. The Panel's role is to ensure that the Hillsborough families and the wider public receive the maximum possible disclosure of all relevant information relating to the context, circumstances and aftermath of the tragedy. It is also the Panel's role to research and analyse the documents and provide a comprehensive report on what their disclosure adds to public understanding. Throughout its work the Panel has consulted with the families of the deceased and its work has been informed by their views and priorities. Disclosure will take place first to families and then to the public.

Of these, the Independent Panel seems by far the most likely option given the Minister's intent to ensure there is openness so we can establish all of the facts.

Given this I have been asked to set up a teleconference for the comms leads from the different organisations so we can ensure that we have some collectively agreed lines to take in the event of an announcement from the Minister without prior notification.

Please can you let me have your availability for the dates below so I can set the teleconference up:

- Monday 4 November – between 12pm- 2pm or 3.30pm-5pm
- Tuesday 5 November – between 11am and 5pm
- Monday 11 November – between 1pm and 3pm or at 4pm
- Tuesday 12 November – anytime apart from 11.30-12.30pm

Best wishes,

Elizabeth

Elizabeth Kerwood (nee Harris)  
Governance and Committee Officer

Please note I work a three day week (Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays).

Direct Email: **Code A**

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