

**From:** Williams, Elaine </O=BAS EXCHANGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=[redacted] **Code A**>  
**Sent:** 14 May 2008 16:01  
**To:** Bhogal Kiran; Woodland Betty - PCT Trainer; Woodland, Betty (HPCT-SE); Scammell, Toni (HPCT-SE); Lawes, Susan; [redacted] **Code A**; [redacted] **Code A**; Harriman, Sue  
**Cc:** Samuel, Richard; Tiller, Sara; Smart, Fiona; Harris, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** FW: Gosport War Memorial hospital - coroner's inquest

**Importance:** High  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

**Categories:** Urgent

Kiran, Betty, Toni, Susan, Natalie, Lesley/Kim, The press release below was released by Portsmouth Coroner this morning, confirming that the inquest into 10 deaths has been opened and adjourned. The Coroner has confirmed that no further information will be released for the next week. The Coroner has apologised for not pre-warning the PCT.

This will feature on the BBC 6 o'clock news tonight. (and was evidently on the lunchtime news also) Betty W is kindly contacting the nursing/ancillary staff as soon as possible, she will use the list of staff who cared for the named deceased, as we don't yet know who the Coroner will wish to involve.

Kim Bezzant will contact as many medical staff as possible, linking with Natalie Beaumont (Lesley Humphrey is away).

Sara T is contacting the SHA and HCC press office and dealing with the media.

The line will be that the PCT is aware but that no further information will be available for the next week.

Kiran - for information at this stage.

Regards

Elaine

Elaine Williams  
 Legal Services Manager  
 Hampshire Primary Care Trust Please note new contact details HQ, Omega House  
 112 Southampton Road  
 Eastleigh, SO50 5PB

Tel: [redacted] **Code A** Direct Dial

Tel: 02380 627444 Office

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

From: Maddison, Val [mailto:[redacted] **Code A**]

Sent: 14 May 2008 14:10

To: Williams, Elaine

Cc: Horsley, David

Subject: Gosport War Memorial deaths

Dear Elaine

Hampshire County Council Media Department issued the following press release:

Subject: PRESS NOTICE ISSUED ON BEHALF OF HM CORONER FOR PORTSMOUTH AND SOUTH EAST HAMPSHIRE  
14/05/2008

For Immediate Release

PR 4123 PRESS NOTICE ISSUED ON BEHALF OF HM CORONER FOR  
PORTSMOUTH AND SOUTH EAST HAMPSHIRE

HM Coroner for Portsmouth and South East Hampshire David Horsley has this morning, 14 May 2008, opened Inquests into the deaths of 10 patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital - Leslie Pittock died 24.1.96 Elsie Lavender died 6.3.96 Ruby Lake died 21.8.98 Robert Wilson died 18.10.96 Enid Spurgeon died 13.4.99 Elsie Devine died 21.11.99 Helena Service died 5.6.97 Arthur Cunningham died 26.9.98 Sheila Gregory died 22.11.99 Geoffrey Packman died 3.9.99 These deaths were the subject of a Police criminal investigation entitled Operation Rochester. It is envisaged that the 10 Inquests will be held concurrently.

They are all complex matters and it is envisaged that the Inquest hearings will not take place before Autumn 2008. The joint hearings are likely to take a number of weeks to conclude.

At present, it is likely that the venue for the hearings will be in the Coroner's Court in Portsmouth.

To ensure that the Inquests are given the detailed care and attention they merit without undue interruption to the ongoing heavy workload of the Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Coroner and his staff, it is intended that they will be conducted by Mr Andrew M Bradley, HM Coroner for North Hampshire, acting as a special Assistant Deputy Coroner for the Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Coroner solely in relation to them.

Please note that the coroner's office is unable to provide any further details at this time but further information will be released as it becomes available.

Kind regards

Valerie Maddison

Coroner's Administrative Officer

Tel: 02392 688326

Fax: 02392 688331

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