
From: Samuel, Richard </O=BAS EXCHANGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN= [Code A]>
Sent: 14 May 2008 15:55
To: Montgomery, Jonathan; Cruddace,Gareth; Percy, Katrina; Harriman, Sue
Cc: Smart, Fiona; Tiller, Sara; Williams, Elaine
Subject: URGENT - PRESS NOTICE ISSUED ON BEHALF OF HM CORONER FOR PORTSMOUTH AND SOUTH EAST HAMPSHIRE

Importance: High

Categories: Urgent

Dear all

Please find attached a press notice issued by the Coroner today.
This information has been cascaded to relevant individuals and groups around GWMH today by Elaine Williams.
Will be working with Sara to prepare media handling strategy for both practice, Hospital and PCT.
Will prepare a brief for Board on 22 (part 2).
Will also alert NEDs tonight on the inquest and out holding line regards Richard

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.

David Horsley

Hm Coroner Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Looking after Hampshire, looking out for you

www.hants.gov.uk/mediacentre For media enquiries please contact:

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