

MARK HOBAN M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

22 JUN 2009

Peter Walsh Esq
Chief Executive
Action Against Medical Accidents
44 High Street
Croyden
CRO 1YB

19 June 2009

Dr Mr Walsh

As you are aware I recently wrote on your behalf to Anne Keen MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Department of Health following your own letter to her formally requesting a public inquiry to be held into the events surrounding the deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital in the late 1990's.

I now enclose her response to the matter.

Yours sincerely

Code A

Enclosure

From Ann Keen MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State



Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
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Mark Hoban MP
House of Commons
Westminster
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Sent Mark

10 JUN 2009

Thank you for your letter of 8 May enclosing correspondence from Mr Peter Walsh, Chief Executive of Action Against Medical Accidents, 44 High Street, Croydon CR0 1YB calling for a public inquiry into events at Gosport War Memorial Hospital in the late 1990s.

As you are aware, Mr Walsh wrote to me directly, and I have responded in the following terms:

You refer to an earlier letter I sent to Mark Hoban in which I said that we would await the outcome of the inquests and then assess if there remain matters outstanding requiring further resolution. As you know, the inquest concluded that in three cases patients were wrongly prescribed excessive doses of diamorphine which hastened their deaths. Two other patients who died were also prescribed drugs which contributed to their deaths, but the jury found that the prescribing was appropriate for their conditions. The jury also found that in the other five cases investigated the deaths were not caused by the drugs the patients were taking.

I now understand that the General Medical Council (GMC) started hearing Dr Barton's case on 8 June, and that the hearing is likely to last several weeks. It would be inappropriate for me to decide about any possible further action, such as a public inquiry, until we know the outcome of the GMC hearing.

I am sorry I cannot give you a more helpful reply at this stage.

I hope this clarifies the Department's position on this matter.

Yours

Code A

ANN KEEN