

From Ann Keen MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State



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Mark Hoban MP
House of Commons
Westminster
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Dear Mark

24 FEB 2009

Thank you for your letter of 3 February enclosing further correspondence from your constituent Mr Charles Stewart-Farthing of Code A about the investigation into deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

As explained in my previous letter, we believe that a public inquiry into this issue would merely duplicate work currently being undertaken and that already undertaken by, among others, the police, the Health authorities, the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), the General Medical Council (GMC) and the Healthcare Commission. We will await the outcome of the inquests and then assess if there remain matters outstanding which require further resolution.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) has not suppressed any of the reports relating to this issue. The CMO actually initiated the whole investigation including tasking Professor Baker. The Baker report has been given to both the police to assist their enquiries, and to the GMC who used their powers under the Medical Acts to obtain it. The work of the GMC and the NMC on this case have not involved the CMO.

I note that Mr Stewart-Farthing is concerned that the coroner has been denied access to the counsel's advice. ~~Any decision to deny the coroner access to the advice would have been made by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), which comes under the remit of the Attorney General rather than the Ministry of Justice or the Department of Health.~~ Should Mr Stewart-Farthing wish to raise this issue directly with the CPS in Hampshire, the contact details are:

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Chief Crown Prosecutor
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Black Horse House
8 - 10 Leigh Road
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