



PRESS RELEASE

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GMC DECISION RE DOCTOR BARTON

Action against Medical Accidents (AvMA) - the charity for patient safety and justice – is calling for a public inquiry into events at Gosport War Memorial Hospital following the GMC decision about the doctor at the centre of the scandal, Dr Jane Barton, announced this morning. Health Minister, Ann Keen, had promised AvMA that she would consider holding a public inquiry once the GMC had concluded its business.

AvMA Chief Executive, Peter Walsh, said:

“Whatever one thinks about this individual doctor, there are system-wide lessons that need to be learnt from this. Although the events took place a long time ago, there is no assurance that the NHS has learnt all the lessons. Patients’ and families’ concerns are still being ignored. Opiates such as diamorphine are still causing unnecessary deaths. There is still inadequate supervision and monitoring of drugs in care homes. And the GMC has continued to show itself to be reluctant to listen to the public, and inconsistent in the way it protects the public. The only people who can take credit from all of this are the families who have tirelessly fought to ensure facts are brought to light.”

AvMA has written again to Ann Keen MP asking her to convene a public inquiry.

ENDS

Notes to Editor

- ¹ For further information contact Peter Walsh on 0208 688 9555 or Code A
- ² AvMA is the independent UK charity which works for patient safety and justice. AvMA provides support to circa 4,000 people each year who have been affected by medical accidents, and works with the Departments of Health, the NHS and private health providers, regulators, health professions, and lawyers to improve patient safety and good practice in responding to medical accidents. Website: www.avma.org.uk
- ³ AvMA is a registered charity (no. 299123 in England & Wales, no. SC039683 in Scotland) and a limited company registered in England No 2405420. Registered office: 44 High St, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 1YB