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29 March 2000

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Mr Richard Lynham
British Geriatrics Society

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Dear Richard

Concerning criminal investigations into the care of elderly people

Following our telephone conversation today, and at your invitation, I write to draw to the attention of the President and Council my concern about the growing number of criminal proceedings and further enquiries that are now being pursued.

During the last nine months, and with the agreement of my medical school and hospital, I have been working with several Constabularies on the clinical aspects of their investigations into the care of elderly people.

You will be aware of the Clacton case, which is now in the public domain, and in relation to which there have four arrests on charges of manslaughter and murder. An exhumation has also been carried out and thirteen more cases may be pending.

In addition, there have been several arrests relating to 17 cases of assault and actual bodily harm in a different part of the country. This is also in the public domain.

Currently I am investigating other serious cases, including those involving treatment received in hospital, from several other parts of the country. These are not yet in the public domain.

These are obviously matters that will be of concern to the President and Council who may wish to have further information so that should it be called to account the Society will be able to give a considered response.

If I can be of further assistance do not hesitate to let me know.

Yours sincerely

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The University of London's Professor in the Care of The Elderly