

**Professor Brian Livesley MD FRCP**

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**Without prejudice**

9 November, 2000

DCI Ray Burt  
Hampshire Constabulary  
Major Crime Complex, Fratton Police Station  
Kingston Crescent, North End  
Portsmouth  
Hampshire PQ2 8BU

Dear DCI Burt

**Re: Gladys RICHARDS (deceased)**

First, let me thank you and your colleagues for the thoroughness with which you have answered the questions I have raised and promptly produced the additional information I have requested in connection with the above named.

Herewith are two copies of my medical report.

On the evidence I have seen and evaluated I stand unequivocally by the opinions, conclusions, and summary this report contains.

Following our recent conversation, the report is headed 'Initial medical report for discussion only'. As you know, this is because I regard it essential for me to discuss the matters arising with the CPS and, preferably also with experienced Counsel, before I produce a formal statement as an expert witness.

Moreover, and in view of the evidence I have already seen, I write also now to express my serious concern about what appears to have been a culture of inappropriate clinical practice on Daedalus ward at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. The reasons for my concern are as follows:-

When Mrs RICHARDS was first admitted to Daedalus ward for rehabilitation I can find no evidence that she would require the subcutaneous drugs that Dr BARTON prescribed. In this connection it is significant that, although prescribed, the nurses did not administer these drugs at that time. In addition, and on her readmission to Daedalus ward, there is no evidence that Mrs RICHARDS had a condition requiring the continuous subcutaneous administration of diamorphine, midazolam, haloperidol, and hyoscine and the lack of appropriate fluid and food intake until she died. It appears probable, therefore, that this has been an institutionalised practice that may have led to the premature and unlawful death of other elderly people admitted to Daedalus ward at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

I recommend that further enquiries be made to determine if other patients at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital have been affected in a manner similar to that of Mrs RICHARDS and particularly those who have been under the care of Dr BARTON.

Yours sincerely

Brian Livesley MD FRCP  
The University of London's Professor  
in the Care of the Elderly