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hq/c/ss/9 (reference:livesley.tjh)

Code A

4th December 2003

Dear Professor Livesley

Thank you for your note dated 29th November 2003. I wish to confirm that Essex Police has contracted your services on a number of investigations in recent years into the medical aspects surrounding investigations into deaths or injuries to old people, predominately in nursing homes.

As you are aware, my role within Essex Police is that of Scientific Support Manager and with that comes control of a substantial Forensic Science Budget for the purchase of all forensic evidence in pursuit of investigations. All contracted experts (and this will be many hundreds during the course of a year) are paid for from this budget and subsequently I see every report in relation to their evidence.

I have all sat in on many case conferences involving experts and have had the opportunity to witness their contributions, both orally and in writing throughout these investigations. During those case conferences which involved your contribution, I can say that you delivered your views in an extremely professional manner, and perhaps more importantly, in an most knowledgeable way to make investigating officers understand the complexities of the type of views you were expressing.

By the very nature of medical evidence, it can be quite difficult to comprehend the minutia involved in not only medical illness in elderly people, but also the effect that medication may have had on them. This can be particularly difficult for investigators to grasp. It is essential, therefore, that the information given to investigators from experts is informative and easy to understand. You did this with great skill.

Subsequently, your written statements were also clear, concise and easy for not only the judicial system but also members of juries and inquest teams to understand.

I was always pleased with the contribution you made to the investigations undertaken by Essex Police and I look forward to further cases, where you can assist us in our enquires.

Yours sincerely

Code A

T J HARPER
Detective Chief Inspector
Scientific Support
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