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**OPERATION ROCHESTER****Allegation of Unlawful Killing of Mrs Gladys Mabel Richards****Note to Counsel dated 3 April 2001**

Counsel is sent herewith for his information copy correspondence dated 1 March 2001 and 31 March 2001.

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# H A M P S H I R E C o n s t a b u l a r y

Paul R. Kernaghan QPM LL.B MA DPM MIPD  
Chief Constable

Criminal Investigation Department  
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Our Ref. : HQ/CID/DCI 7410/2001

Your Ref. :

Tel. : 0845 045 45 45  
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01 March 2001

Mr P. CLOSE  
Crown Prosecution Service  
Casework Directorate  
50, Ludgate Hill,  
LONDON,  
EC4M 7EX

**IN CONFIDENCE**

Dear Mr Close,

Allegations arising from the death of Gladys Mable RICHARDS

Thank you for providing us with an update regarding the progress of these case papers.

I note, and acknowledge, your general remarks about the difficulties associated with cases of this kind that turn on complex medical issues and opinions.

I am also pleased to note the confidence you have in the person to whom the case has been passed for an opinion, namely Mr David PERRY.

In my briefing note I touched upon some of the key surrounding issues in this matter and I would like to re-emphasise the value that we would place upon an opportunity to participate in a pre-opinion conference with Mr PERRY and yourself.

Whilst I am, of course, neutral in this matter I am never the less aware of the intensity of feelings held by certain members of the family of the deceased, particularly her daughter Mrs Mackenzie.

I am also aware of the significance that the medical expert, engaged by the Police, has placed upon his findings. I am certain that both you and Mr PERRY would find it helpful to meet Professor LIVESLEY and discuss the case with him.



# HAMPSHIRE Constabulary

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If it is felt that the Professor's opinions require validating then perhaps consideration should be given, by the CPS, to engaging a person who is suitably medically qualified to review the opinions tendered which appear to be remarkably clear and unequivocal.

It is appreciated that Professor LIVESLEY is likely to be strongly challenged in court and this is a further reason for an early, informed, assessment to be made of his potential as a witness by those responsible for deciding upon, and conducting, any future proceedings.

Clearly the facts and issues surrounding this case are sensitive and topical.

I think I would be failing in my responsibility, therefore, if I did not draw your attention to concerns, openly expressed to me on more than one occasion by persons directly involved in this case, that the decision to prosecute, or not, might be subject to 'political' influence given the perceived plight of the National Health Service and the forthcoming General Election. *(You will have seen Professor LIVESLEY's recommendation so far as the option to search for other, potential, cases is concerned.)*

Naturally I sought to dispel such concerns, when they were expressed, emphasising the confidence that I have in the CPS, and its agents, to reach an appropriate and objective opinion.

I look forward to meeting you in due course.

Yours Sincerely,

**Code A**

Ray Burt  
Detective Chief Inspector



# H A M P S H I R E      C o n s t a b u l a r y

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31<sup>st</sup> March 2001

Mr P. CLOSE  
Crown Prosecution Service  
Casework Directorate  
50, Ludgate Hill,  
LONDON,  
EC4M 7EX

**IN CONFIDENCE**

Dear Mr Close,

Allegations arising from the death of Gladys Mable RICHARDS

A brief word to advise you that we have been approached by the Portsmouth 'News', a newspaper that circulates widely in the south east of Hampshire, asking about this case.

I have gone to great pains to avoid any sort of disclosure to the Media but I have been frustrated by an approach made to this newspaper by Mrs Mackenzie (daughter of the deceased) who wished to air her dissatisfaction with the recent outcome of the PCA's investigation into her complaint about the earlier handling of this investigation. The reporter was, not surprisingly, more interested in other things. Unfortunately there appear to have been further, unauthorised, 'leaks' that have resulted in the reporter knowing a fair amount about the case.

I met the reporter on Friday 30/03/01 with a view to dispelling his wilder speculations. He has indicated that he plans to publish a story on Tuesday 03/04/01.

Yours Sincerely,

**Code A**

Ray Burt  
Detective Chief Inspector

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2001.**

Mr. D. Penney  
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**London Branch 3  
Casework Directorate  
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