

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

Ms Stella Galea  
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**Our ref:** ET/DB  
**Your ref:** PPC/SG/10347  
**Date:** [ TIME \@ "d MMMM,  
yyyy" ]  
**Ext:** Code A

Dear Galea

**Gosport War Memorial Hospital**

Further to your letter and our recent discussion regarding a Police investigation into the events surrounding the death of Mrs Gladys Richards, I am enclosing the following information:

1. Paperwork associated with the original complaint. This commences with a copy of a letter from Lesley Lack, Mrs Richards' daughter, (Appendix A), the Trust's investigation report (Appendix B), and a letter from the Chief Executive to Mrs Lack. Mrs Richards' family did not pursue this complaint further within the NHS complaints procedure.
2. Some time after this initial complaint, the Trust received a telephone call from the Police, requesting a written report about the death of Mrs Richards. The Police would not inform us what specific aspects they were investigating, a situation that applied until a short time ago. At no stage were individual nurses mentioned but it became clear from the line of questioning that the Police were interested in the morphine prescription. We provided the information shown in Appendix B.
3. Gosport War Memorial is a Community Hospital in which medical care is shared between GPs and Consultants. In order to help control the pain of patients, a practice had existed that led to broad prescribing of analgesics. The nurses only administered the lowest dose to Mrs Richards and did not, in our view, contravene Trust policies.

However, in order to protect nurses and patients more fully, the Trust has implemented new policies and practice guidelines (Appendix C).

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The Police investigation is now complete and the three nurses you refer to in your letter have received letters from the Police informing them that they are no longer part of any Police investigation. The Trust has been informed by the Police that the C.P.S. have decided that there is insufficient evidence to proceed with a charge of unlawful killing. The nurses concerned have experienced an extremely traumatic three year period and have all suffered personally. I am anxious to stress that the Trust has never received a complaint in relation to the three nurses mentioned in your letter (in all 19 nurses were interviewed as part of this process) and I am concerned about the consequences of another investigation, as they are the kind of committed nurses we want to try to retain in the health service. In consequence, I truly hope that the UKCC is able to offer an early decision in respect of further steps or required information.

Yours sincerely

Dr Eileen Thomas  
**Nursing Director**

Silent copies: Mr Ian Piper  
Mrs Lesley Humphrey  
Dr Ian Reid