

Fiona Cameron-General Manager

From: Lesley Humphrey - Quality Manager
To: Max Millett - Chief Executive; Eileen Thomas - Nursing Director; Ian Piper - Operational Director; Peter King - Personnel Director; Reid, Richard Ian (Dr)
Cc: Fiona Cameron-General Manager; Jan Peach - Service Manager; Code A
Code A
Subject: GWMH press interest/police case
Date: 23 March 2001 12:16
Priority: High

Dear all, I've had a couple of calls from the police. A Ports News journalist, Jonathon Carter, has made enquiries with a local Detective Superintendent regarding the Gladys Richard's case. Seems he has got wind of this investigation and some erroneous information that the police were also investigating the deaths 500 hundred other patients at GWMH. The police stress that they have not proactively released information, they have simply responded to this enquiry.

The police have asked JC to resist sensational/speculative publication, whihc would unnecessarily panic local people.

Police postion for any press enquiries:

- * investigating the circumstances of death of an elderly lady at GWMH
- * complaint made by members of patients family
- * cannot comment on circumstances of case/death for reasons of patient confidentiality
- * PCHT and Haslar have been cooperating with investigation
- * the case is currently with the CPS
- * in course of investigation number of deaths at hospital checked
- * no other deaths are being investigated
- * there have been no other similar complaints made to the police

If pushed they will add

- * allegation is unlawful killing

However, there has been no subsequent call by Jonathon Carter to the polcie press office. My contact there thinks he might have thought he was on to another "Shippam" and has realised that is not the case, and may take no action until CPD decisions, but we need to be prepared for press contact/local headlines.

ACTIONS

- 1) I'll draft press brief, run past David B; to follow by email
- 2) Jan you'll need to advise the staff that there may be an article in Evening News etc. Its vital that staff know that the police are only investigating this case and NOT 500 others
- 3) Max do you want a board briefing?

Final note, the CPS decision will be communicated to me [Max in my absence], by DCI Ray Burt, before any further police action/publicity happens.

lesley