

Code A

To: Code A
 Subject: STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL - FOR ADDRESS ONLY
 Sensitivity: Confidential

To: HIOWSHA (Gareth Cruddace, Dr Simon Tanner, Richard Samuel), Hampshire Constabulary (Kevin Briscoe), South East Hampshire PCTs (Lucy Docherty, Margaret Scott, Sue Galley)
 FOR COMMENT

Dear Colleagues

Please find attached a draft press statement that will be available on request tomorrow following Gareth Cruddace's statement at today's Board meeting [no press in attendance]. This provides us with minuted proof that we placed in the public domain the fact that we have received this advice and that we are considering the consequences.

Our comms plans at this moment include:

NO PROACTIVE ISSUE of this press release [BUT available reactively if needed AND will consider carefully this position depending on aftermath of tonight's File on Four AND PCTs can use this statement to brief Executive Teams]

NO PLANS to "dripfeed" at present [i.e. we do NOT plan to first proactively announce that we have received advice ... subsequently announce implications thereof. Again, this approach will be reviewed in the context of File on Four]

- INSTEAD, when timely, prepare a statement for public release announcing that police have advised us to put on hold all NHS investigations and as a result the Execs will resume normal duties (if they decide to take up the offer, statement to be agreed with CEExs)

- ALL need to make sure there is a complete embargo on discussing any possibilities of Chief Executive's resuming normal duties (including by body language!) until agreed date for release

- Timing of any announcement will also need to play in timely briefing of staff, MPs, relatives (via Alexander Harris Solicitors)

- These plans will need to be carefully reviewed on context of any media aftermath associated with File of Four programme tonight

All comments on this would be gratefully received.

With kind regards

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SERIOUS UNTOWARD INCIDENT HOTLINE Code A

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Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority.

DRAFT ONLY - Hampshire and Isle of Wight
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11 February 2003

Statement on Gosport War Memorial Hospital by Gareth Cruddace, Chief Executive, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority

At today's meeting of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority, Chief Executive Gareth Cruddace updated the Board regarding the Gosport War Memorial Hospital:

"Hampshire Constabulary has just advised the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority that NHS investigations into the care and treatment of inpatients in the past at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital should be put on hold pending the completion of the ongoing police investigation. It is worth noting that it is usual practice for the police to ask for internal investigations to be put on hold as police investigations continue.

"We will need to consider the implications of this advice and take action accordingly, and will keep the Board updated at future meetings.

"The Strategic Health Authority and local Primary Care Trusts are committed to ensuring the quality and safety of local NHS services. It is therefore important to note that whilst the CHI investigation, published last year, expressed concerns about inpatient services in the past it concluded that policies and procedures are in place to ensure safe standards of care at the hospital."

.....Ends

Notes for Editors: Contact Information

- For information please contact a **Press Officer** on **Code A**
- More information about the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority is available from www.hiow.nhs.uk

Chairman: Peter Bingham
Chief Executive: Gareth Cruddace