

**Chronology of GWMH
Issues relating to DrB
Source: Files of Simon Tanner and Nigel McFetridge
12th February 2004**

25th June 2001

First note in file

Email from Karen Robinson - CMO concerned why DrB's case got as far as GMC (via Police) without going through local NHS tribunal

June 2001

DrB appeared before IOC of GMC re death of a patient – no action taken

28th June 2001

DPH Peter Old visited DrB. - Advised her that in the light of the GMC hearing and further Police inquiries, he intends to initiate the local procedure for identification and support of primary care medical practitioners whose performance is giving cause for concern

29th June 2001

Dr B stepped down as chair of Gosport Primary Care Group
GMC decided no action

2nd July 2001

Letter PO to Bob Button proposing Poor Performance Procedure

3rd July 2001

Letter Penny Humphris to Peter Homa, CHI, requesting an investigation

10th August 2001

Letter from Paul Edmondson-Jones to DrB - **Local Performance Screening Group found no evidence of possible poor professional performance** so they do not intend to convene the Performance Reference Panel or convene take any other action

28th September 2001

Informal notice from CHI that they will conduct an inquiry

4th October 2001

(Confidential briefing note by PO)

22nd October 2001

Press announcement of CHI investigation

12 November 2001

Letter DrB to Penny Humphris – resigning as chair of PCG

13th February 2002

Letter PO to DrB

- Following our meeting last night...agreed...
 - You would cease to provide medical care at GWMH
 - You would voluntarily stop prescribing opiates and benzodiazepines
 - We agreed to review situation monthly

Press release prepared

25th February 2002

Letter GMC to PO - IOC to consider DrB on 21st March 2002 re deaths of five patients at GWMH

15th March 2002

Letter from PO to DrB - To continue with restrictions

25th March 2002

Letter GMC to PO - IOC not making a order affecting her registration

2nd April 2002

Letter MDU to PO - DrB content voluntary prescribing restriction is lifted but restriction on medical care at GWMH should continue and be reviewed monthly

24th May 2002

Letter Simon Tanner to Ian Piper re GWMH

19th July 2002

Letter from ST to DrB

- Request DrB to continue voluntary restriction re involvement at GWMH
- DrB replied to confirm

11th July 2002

Letter from GMC to Ian Reid – case based on information from Hampshire Constabulary scheduled for 29th August 2002

5th August 2002

Letter from GMC to HIOWhA. To inform that allegations have been made against Dr B and that they will be considered by the Preliminary Proceedings Committee.

27th August 2002

Meeting: Adrian Osbourne, Margaret Smith, Karen Robinson, Mavis Fidler, Nigel McFetridge

- View of PCT that no local action against DrB is indicated at present
- Suspension not indicated because
 - GMC decided to take no action in March 2002
 - Issues at Gosport re her role as clinical assistant, not GP
 - DrB no longer works at GWM
 - Suspension of a senior GP would put great strain on local provision
- Discussed “lines to take” re different possible outcomes of GMC PPC

29th August 2002

MS had asked the Pharmacy adviser to review prescribing of Opiates by DrB's practice. The results of the review did not give any cause for concern nor were there any other causes for concern about the practice.

A copy of the results of the review were sent to NMCF at the HIOWSHA.

2th September 2002

CMO announced he intends to set up an inquiry into death-rates at GWM during DrB's time – to be carried out by **Professor Richard Baker**

9th September 2002

email ST to CMO re advice on ? suspension

10-11th September 2002

Notes on regulations re suspension reviewed

12th September 2002

email from DH to ST – **CMO thinks ban on prescribing opiates should be reinstated immediately**

12 September 2002

email PE-J to ST - details of original screening group meeting 29th June 2001

13th September 2002

Meeting at Farham Reach attended by ST, **DrB**, MDU, Bob Button

- Discussed advice by CMO
- DrB off sick at present – review restriction to prescribe on her return to work

16th September 2002

Previously unshared information came to light at GWM

17th September 2002

Letter ST to DrB re meeting

20th September 2002

Letter from MDU to ST - DrB returning to work on Monday 30th September

23rd September 2002

Letter from GMC to GC - The IOC considered DrB on 19th September 2002 - Not necessary to make an order affecting her registration

25th September 2002

Discussion between NMCF, MS and Sue Hunt re alternatives to suspension

30th September 2002

- NMCF reviewed arguments re suspension and outlined possible areas for monitoring in a file-note.
- Jane Hayden-Smith wrote to Gareth Cruddace re advice on suspension
- ST discussed wording of press statement re DrB with Jim Brown, MDU. Will ask DrB to write to confirm to us how she intends to deal with voluntary ban personally, incl emergency situations

2nd October 2002

- Fiona Harris arranged to meet Hazel Bradshaw (Pharmaceutical Advisor) to set up local monitoring of Dr B's prescribing of schedule 2 controlled drugs and benzodiazepines.
- It was hoped to set up monitoring of prescribing by local pharmacists.
- Nigel McFetridge spoke to Andrew Patterson (GP, clinical governance lead)
- Agreed he would
 - liaise with Hazel Bradshaw
 - discuss way forward with Gordon Somerville (PEC chair)
 - discuss process with practice

3rd October 2002

- Fiona Harris met with G&FPCT prescribing advisors
- **Dr B had entered a voluntary agreement from 30th September 2002 not to prescribe opiates or benzodiazepines and to allow the PCT to monitor her current practice.**
- **Agreed**
 - **PACT data for Dr B to be reviewed monthly**
 - **The three nearest community pharmacists to set aside Dr Bs prescriptions so a PCT Prescribing Advisor can review them weekly/monthly**
 - **The Prescribing Advisor (? Hazel Bradshaw) to meet regularly with Dr B to review her prescribing**
- These actions were agreed with Alan Pickering

10th October 2002

Fiona Harris emailed Nigel McFetridge – heard that Bob Button had expressed concern about the PCT covertly monitoring the prescribing of a GP who had been cleared by the GMC

11th October 2002

Meeting between Alan Pickering, Simon Tanner, Nigel McFetridge

- **Alan had met Dr B on 9th October 2002. She was happy about prescribing restrictions and had made alternative arrangements for her patients. She explained that if a patient was in “dire straights” she would still prescribe.**
- Apparently Bob Button was happy about PACT data monitoring.

15th October 2002

email from ST to Gordon Somerville - Fiona Harris is pretty clear it is within our powers to monitor via Pharmacy checks. It is also in Dr B's interest to agree to this

2nd November 2002

1:1 Meeting between NMcf and ST - ST said he would check if monitoring in place etc

12th February 2004

Review of monitoring of DrB Prescribing

NMcF phoned Alan Pickering, Gordon Sommerville, Margaret Smith.
(Hazel Bagley not available).

Alan faxed copy of PCT notes on monitoring.

HB met with DrB

- 1st November 2002
 - **Dr B had undertaken not to prescribe benzodiazepines or opiate analgesics from 1st October 2002.**
 - **All patients on on-going therapy transferred to other partners**
 - **DrB not to accept house-calls if possible need for prescribing above drugs. Possible problem with Health-call work – e.g. prescription for bereavement**
 - **Visits to local pharmacies was discussed but deemed impractical**

- 27th June 2003
 - **Data available from PPA to April 2003**
 - **DrB did check on practice computer. 4th quarter of 2003-04 studied. 7 of the 8 diazepam prescriptions were by other partners for DrBs patients**
 - **Monthly PACT reports to be prepared for DrB**

PPA report DrB April to December – copy sent to NMcF

If complete

- **Only 2-3 diazepam prescriptions per month – mostly 1 month supply**
- **Oral morphine prescribed 3 times**
- **le very low prescribing compared to usual GP prescribing**

Apparently HB has good relations with DrB and has no concerns

No other monitoring in place – need to check with HB

Nigel McFetridge
12th Feb 2004