

Code A

7th March 2001

Mr Peter Viggers, M.P.
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

STRICTLY PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr Viggers

Thank you for your letters dated 26 February and 1 March.

There seems to be some misunderstanding over why I contacted Councillor Bartlett at Gosport and sent him copies of correspondence for onward transmission to you.

I was not asking for your help or advice on how to deal with the incompetence of the Gosport Police or the very dubious way that Hampshire Police HQ has dealt with the complaint. This was first brought to the attention of the Chief Constable on 20th November 1998 followed by a detailed official statement dated 27 April 1999. I merely thought that in the interests of your constituents and out of courtesy you should be made aware of the situation. The papers have now been sent to the PCA as of 13th February 2001. It should not take over 2 years to deal with a complaint and the officers concerned.

The complaint referred to the extraordinary level of investigation into the alleged unlawful killing of my mother at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital - the latter was reported to Gosport Police on 2nd October 1998 after receipt of a Report from the Portsmouth Healthcare Trust (Mr Millett, Chief Executive) I was accompanied by my sister (your constituent) who has recently retired after 40 years nursing experience and was, like myself, a witness of all events both day and night. The "investigation" was completed initially in four weeks with no statements being taken, no interviews, no sight of medical notes and some appalling personal rudeness to me on the telephone by the then Head of C.I.D. A few more weeks of further investigation were involved after my letter of 20th November 1998 and it was 'confirmed' that there was no case to answer. Police Headquarters could not involve themselves in the investigation by Gosport Police was one official comment given by HQ. I therefore brought some of the points I had raised with Gosport Police into my Statement of Complaint dated 27 April 1999.

Apparently a 'STOP' was put on my complaint (not confirmed to me until recently) and the next thing I heard was that the case was to be re-investigated by DCI Ray Burt (now CID Police HQ Winchester). It was obvious from the outset that the issues I had raised at Gosport had not been dealt with. I had taken the trouble to revise "my law" and included legal points and photocopies from Archbold case details etc. and these had been included with the papers handed to Gosport Police. Obviously the new investigation was the result of details I had included in my Statement of Complaint relating to Gosport Police.

The delay in the investigation just completed (November 2000) has been caused by the initial incompetence of Gosport Police and it has involved the tax-payers and Hampshire Police with considerable extra expense. Some of the medical staff from RN Hospital Haslar had been transferred as far afield as Germany and a special team of Police Officers had to be involved with interviews which took place 18 months to 2 years after the event. This re-investigation commenced in October 1999.

My mother had been transferred from RN Hospital Haslar to the Gosport for rehabilitation and was expected to be there for a period of 4-6 weeks after surgery. I have absolutely no complaint about Haslar.

I cannot give you all the details regarding the alleged unlawful killing in a letter but I think in the interests of your constituents you should be made aware of the 'evidence' I have in conjunction with the full hospital notes (Haslar and Gosport), consultant correspondence etc. (copies of which I have in my possession). Expert medical opinion has been obtained by the Police and I understand it is considered that this is a "serious case".

The papers are now with the CPS London. I personally have absolutely no doubt that there is a case of unlawful killing. I have quoted Adomaka (1995) (Lord Mackay's ruling), Gross negligence amounting to criminality, breach of duty of care and the written statement in the medical notes. "I am quite happy for the Nursing Staff to confirm death" at the time of arrival at Gosport Memorial Hospital when the consultant's letter stated this lady should be rehabilitated. The additional evidence is even more damning.

This is an appalling case and it is not the first time a hospital or a doctor under the jurisdiction of the Portsmouth Healthcare Trust has been under scrutiny. Irrespective of the outcome of the CPS deliberations on whether there is a criminal case to answer there will be publicity eventually. I therefore think it is in the interests of your constituents that you should be aware of the situation - although at the moment you can take no action or publicise the matter.

It is not my intention to approach Nigel Waterson. He has no contact with Hampshire Police HQ, Gosport Police or the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. My mother resided at Lee on Solent and my sister and adult nieces still live in Gosport. My sister did not want me to go to the Police but nevertheless she will be a prosecution witness if or rather when the charges are made.

I have many weekly commitments but I am prepared to meet you for an interview should you consider that it is in the interests of your constituents and presumably it is appropriate for you to "act" on their behalf rather than Nigel Waterson. This is the reason I approached you via Councillor Bartlett after all the investigations had taken place and the papers relating to the alleged unlawful killing were with the CPS London. I would respectfully suggest that "political correctness" is not appropriate in this instance and the less people that know about this situation the better at the moment. As I have stated to the police, this case will be brought to the attention of the public eventually - I hope it will be within the dignity of a Court room in the not too distant future.

Yours sincerely,

Copy Councillor G. Bartlett
Nigel Waterson MP (for information)