

Code A

23rd March, 2009

Sir Peter Viggers,

Code A

Dear Sir Peter,

My sister and I were extremely distressed by your remarks that the current coroner's inquest into the deaths at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital was unnecessary and that the whole matter should be closed.

Our mother was one of those singled out to be prematurely terminated and this was three years before the whole situation became public. No matter that eight previous inquiries were inconclusive, we who were involved knew what was going on: in the last week of my mother's life my sister said to one of the doctors, "So, you are going to pump our mother full of morphine until her body cannot take any more". His reply was, "That's your opinion".

Any regime that allows pre-signed prescriptions for diamorphine which is then administered by nurses when they see fit is inherently unsafe, at the very least. It is already clear that in some cases this drug was administered to patients who had no clinical reason to receive it intravenously via a driver 24/7.

If your mother had been terminated in the same way as ours, you, too, would want to know who was responsible even if their actions fall short of murder or manslaughter. In the meantime, your remarks are extremely hurtful and offensive to those of us who have lost our relatives and want to know the truth about their deaths. Why do you think that after 13 years families are continuing this fight? Clearly there is some case to answer.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs G Bragginton