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17 July 2002

Mr Peter Viggers, MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Viggers

I am writing to you regarding the tragic events at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital and your reaction to the publication of the Commission For Health Improvement's (CHI) report.

I noted your comments in The News on Friday July 5th 2002 with dismay. It is shameful that after all this time you still do not appear willing to accept that there were serious problems at the hospital relating to drugs given and the standard of care received. I refer to your comments that you "have complete confidence in the hospital now and in the past" and that "in 28 years as an MP I've never had to pursue a constituents complaint against the War Memorial hospital". I suggest to you Mr Viggers that this is because you chose to ignore the pleas of victims families for help. My mother wrote to you earlier this year regarding this matter yet you took no action. I have also spoken to other people who contacted you requesting your assistance but you denied the existence of any problem without even attempting to ascertain the true facts. You told these people to go away!!

I will point out the true facts to you now Mr Viggers. The CHI report clearly states that there were serious concerns relating to the level of strong opiate drugs, including Diamorphine, given to patients, the anticipatory prescribing of these drugs and palliative care guidelines being "inappropriately" applied to rehabilitation patients. I quote to you from page 13 of the CHI report which states CHI believes "...the use and combination of medicines used in 1998 was excessive and outside normal practice".

How do you respond to this? You appear happy to back a hospital which appears willing to protect wicked individuals who took it upon themselves to administer these drugs to people. I think that your comment referring to the pressures placed on staff at the hospital as a result of complaints is misguided to say the least. I'll tell you something now - if it had not been for families' complaints and continuing to fight despite being knocked back time and again the CHI report would never have been written, procedures not changed and I fear people would still be dying unnecessarily. BUT, the report does exist and you cannot ignore its presence or its damning contents.

If you had any heart or sense of conscience you would be calling for the individuals responsible for this tragedy to be held accountable for their actions. After all, the Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust (PCT) may be attempting to hide behind a

systems failure excuse, but it is clear to anybody that actually looks at these cases, that whilst the trust IS at fault for failing to put systems in place to prevent an individual from allegedly committing a criminal act, the fact remains that an individual doctor 'chose' to administer those drugs which CHI has acknowledged were excessive and inappropriate. This from a doctor with many years of training and experience.

Its time you stood up for what is right Mr Viggers and push for justice. Stop pretending that these problems don't exist. After all, its there for you in black and white.

Yours sincerely

Miss E Yeats

CC.

Mr Tony Blair, Prime Minister

Mr Iain Duncan Smith, MP

Mr Allan Milburn, Health Minister

Mr David Blunkett, Home Secretary
