

Other Document Form

Number

1149

Title EMAL DCI WILLIAMS TO SOE GALLEY WITH PRESS RELEASE
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Code A			
		O/M	SIO
		Indexer	

Code A

From: Williams, David (DCI)
Sent: 12 July 2004 14:51
To: **Code A**
Subject: FW: Operation Rochester – four cases to be fast-tracked

-----Original Message-----

From: Williams, David (DCI)
Sent: 12 July 2004 14:50
To: 'Code A' <ports.nhs.uk>
Subject: Operation Rochester - four cases to be fast-tracked



Operation Rochester -
four cas...

Code A

As discussed.. attached the release that went out at close of play last Friday..I have also sent it to our media services on an 'if asked basis'.

Regards.

Dave WILLIAMS.
Detective Superintendent.
Op ROCHESTER.

Code A

Operation Rochester. Police Investigation Continues.

Police Investigations continue into deaths at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital following review and assessment of 90 cases by a team of clinical experts.

A small percentage of those cases are to be subject to closer investigation to establish whether or not any criminal offences have been committed in respect of the deaths of elderly patients between 1996 and 1999.

To this end the Fareham and Gosport Healthcare Trust have been working in close cooperation with the Police Investigation Team. A considerable number of Healthcare Professionals involved in the care of patients during the relevant period are being interviewed as witnesses in order to establish the standard of care afforded to particular patients.

As far as the cases not being progressed are concerned, the standard of care was not found to be negligent.

A separate process quality assuring the clinical review is shortly to be completed.

The investigation team continues its close liaison with family group members, the General Medical Council and the Crown Prosecution Service.

It is anticipated that the current phase of this investigation should have been completed by October 2004.

Det Ch Supt Steve Watts, the senior investigating officer, said: "This is and has always been a very complex and detailed investigation which we are taking forward methodically and professionally and with the interests of the relatives foremost in our minds. It is being conducted in accordance with best practice nationally.

"It will necessarily be a long process and at all stages of the investigation we will work in partnership with the families, the solicitors that represent them and the professional bodies."

Notes for Editors:

1. Operation Rochester is an investigation into a number of deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital principally between 1991 and 2000.
2. Relatives who made complaints to Hampshire Constabulary have been kept informed with regular letters and a newsletter updating them on the progress of the inquiry.
3. Each case referred to Hampshire Constabulary has been examined by a panel of eminent national experts in the fields of palliative care, geriatric care, general practice, nursing and forensic toxicology in association with the case investigation officers.
 - a. That investigation showed that in a number of the cases they were content that the treatment that the patient received while at the hospital was appropriate and did not cause them concern.

- b. It also showed there were a number of cases needing further examination of the circumstances of the death before any formal conclusion could be reached. That process continues.
4. An eminent medical lawyer quality assured those decisions and conclusions before any relatives were approached with the details of their cases.
5. The investigation team has liaised closely with the health authorities and the General Medical Council throughout this investigation and continues to do so.

End