

**Other Document Form**

Number

D1001

Title LETTER DEPT SUPT AKERMAN TO EPS RE GLADYS RICHARDS FILE  
(Include source and any document number if relevant)

Receivers instructions urgent action Yes / No

Document registered / indexed as indicated

No(s) of actions raised

Statement readers instructions

Indexed as indicated

No(s) of actions raised

Examined - further action to be taken

Further actions no(s)

Receivers	
<b>Code A</b>	
O/M	SIO
Indexer	

When satisfied all action raised Office Manager to endorse other Document Master Number Form.



Hampshire Constabulary  
Police Headquarters  
West Hill  
WINCHESTER  
Hampshire  
SO22 5DB

**K L Akerman QPM**  
Detective Chief Superintendent  
Head of CID

**Tel:** 01962 871404  
**Fax:** 01962 871130  
**Telex:** 47361 HANPOL  
**email:** 113364.1732@COMPUSERVE.COM

Your ref:

Our ref: KLA/ba

17<sup>th</sup> April, 2001

Mr Roger Daw  
Chief Crown Prosecutor  
Area Secretariat  
CPS Hampshire & IOW  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Black Horse House  
8 - 10 Leigh Road  
Eastleigh SO50 9FH

Dear 

Allegation regarding the death of Gladys Mable RICHARDS

Following a complaint from a member of her family the Hampshire Constabulary has undertaken an investigation into the death of Gladys Mable Richards. This elderly lady died whilst being treated as an in-patient at the War Memorial Hospital in Gosport, Hampshire on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 1998 and it has been alleged that staff at the Hospital unlawfully killed her.

The file of evidence was submitted to the Portsmouth Branch Office of the Crown Prosecution Service on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2001.

Since that time I understand that the file has been referred to the Casework Directorate in London where Mr. Close is dealing with it.

I'm sure you will appreciate that this is an extremely sensitive and stressful matter that is currently impacting upon the lives of many people.

Whilst I understand that the medical opinion of the expert engaged by the Police is likely to be challenged in the event of a trial I have, nevertheless, been disturbed by the unequivocal nature of his evidence in support of the allegation which has been made.

Matters have now been made worse by unexpected and unwelcome disclosures in the local press. This has not only added to the trauma of all parties involved but also prompted a

number of people to contact the Police expressing concerns about relatives and friends who have died at the same Hospital.

It has also brought forward a former member of staff at the Hospital who wishes to provide evidence that tends to support the allegations made. This additional statement will shortly be forwarded to Mr Close.

I appreciate that this is a case of some complexity and difficulty that will require careful consideration but I am anxious that an outcome is reached as soon as possible.

I would be grateful if you would enquire into the progress of the case and ensure that it receives the priority attention that I feel it warrants given the significance of the case, the possibility of a widened enquiry and the potential for great public concern that the media has now, somewhat prematurely, aroused.

Yours sincerely,

**Code A**

K.L. Akerman QPM  
Detective Chief Superintendent  
Head of CID