



H A M P S H I R E C o n s t a b u l a r y

Paul R. Kernaghan QPM LL.B MA DPM MCIPD
Chief Constable

Major Incident Complex
Kingston Crescent
Portsmouth
Hampshire
PO2 8BU

Our Ref . HQ/CID/SE/DCI/2000

Your Ref . MM/YJM

Tel . 0845 045 45 45
Direct Dial
Fax . 023 92891504

10 November 2000

The Chief Executive
Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust
Central Office
St James' Hospital
Locksway Road
PORTSMOUTH
Hampshire PO4 8LD

Dear Mr Millett

Re: Mrs Gladys RICHARDS

Thank you for your letter of the 6th November 2000. I understand the reason for the delay. This is an important issue which touches the feelings, and interests, of numerous individuals and potentially, many others. For this reason it is the intention of the Hampshire Constabulary to progress the matter speedily, sensitively and correctly.

In view of the fact that it may become necessary to seek access to the Medical/Health Records of persons who have died whilst being treated at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital and, perhaps, other hospitals and places of care for which the Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust may have a responsibility. May I ask that any file destruction policies and process be suspended until our investigation is complete.

I believe that this action would not only satisfy the immediate possible requirements of the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 but would also underline the fact that the Trust is co-operating with the Hampshire Constabulary in order to resolve this issue.

I am grateful for the support and assistance which we have thus far received. I will keep you updated as regards the progress made.

Yours faithfully

R J BURT
Detective Chief Inspector