

Baker, John (LSC)

To: Code A
Subject: RE: Exceptional Funding - Inquest - Gillian Mackenzie

Hi Code A

I hope you had a good break.

I have finally been provided with the files. The individual who assessed the bill and made payment has retired from the LSC on health grounds so is unavailable to me.

The final payment made was £93,000 inc vat against a claim of £81,320.08 exc vat. There were 5 clients. This makes £18,600 per client inc vat. I had been working on about £24k plus vat per person.

One client recovered damages in separate proceedings and £18,600 was returned to us making net cost £74,400 inc vat.

Looking again at the figures in the recommendation I think they can be justified but are perhaps top end. We would always assess to see work was actually done and necessary. Perhaps the way forward would be to say that the appropriate grant should be 18,600 inc vat so it is consistent with the other inquests.

John
 25-8-11

From: Code A
Sent: 18 August 2011 15:11
To: Baker, John (LSC)
Subject: RE: Exceptional Funding - Inquest - Gillian Mackenzie

Thanks John, much appreciated. I will be on leave from Mon-Thurs next week, so will pick up on my return. The sub is largely drafted, so I'm hopeful that it wouldn't take long to get it ready in time.

I'll try to enjoy the Bill work if I survive the imminent restructuring!

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From: Baker, John (LSC)
Sent: 18 August 2011 14:58
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Understood. I will get back to you by Weds next week and we will make a decision at that point. It should be possible to get it by then and i will reinforce need for speed with my colleagues.

Enjoy the rest of eternity dealing with the Bill!

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From: Code A
Sent: 18 August 2011 14:28
To: Baker, John (LSC)
Subject: RE: Exceptional Funding - Inquest - Gillian Mackenzie

Thanks John.

From: Baker, John (LSC) [Code A]
Sent: 20 July 2011 16:22
To:
Cc: [Code A]
Subject: RE: Exceptional Funding - Inquest - Gillian Mackenzie

Hi [Code A]

Happy to have my brains picked.

You are absolutely right to raise this but it may assist if I indicate that the final costs agreed in the Gosport Inquests (I think there were more than 4 inquests but could be wrong) was £93,000. That is £23,250 per person if 4 for a 6 week inquest. Weekly cost was £15,500. In this app the cost is 13,500 per week. I don't have the file to hand and am taking this from our electronic records. I thought that we got at least some of that back from separate compensation claims but could be wrong.

This case was allocated to a different coroner so the coroner who did the original Gosport inquests will not be taking part.

On the numbered points

1. I think some generic issues will have been resolved but appears that some will be distinguished ie solicitors will seek to say why this deceased was different from those in the original inquest. I think they refer to the coroners approach not to go into certain issues as resolved by original inquests as one which they need to overcome in certain issues thus going into evidence not only of what happened but also why different.
2. I agree with you. There will be a difference of approach but it should be shorter given a jury is made up of 11 lay people and the Coroner should be used to dealing with the issues. How much of a difference it makes is the issue.
3. I think I/we could either a) get the final bill in the original inquest as a guide or b) raise with the sols and get to justify c) reduce to level we see as appropriate. Happy to do either but am on leave for 2 weeks from Friday afternoon.

Can you let me know what you would like to do? I am happy to delve deeper if you or the minister will be uncomfortable with the figures and may be being too generous!

John
 20-7-11

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Sent: 19 July 2011 15:27
To: Baker, John (LSC)
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