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**BY LETTER AND FAX**

**FAX NUMBER:**  Code A

Our Ref: 558203/000001/JCW/RICHARD/HP

Your Ref:

8 April 2011

Dear Sirs

**Re: Mrs Gladys Mabel Richards (deceased)**  
**Gosport War Memorial Hospital – Inquest**

We write further to our letter dated 3 September 2010. You may recall that this case is one of a series of Inquests arising out of deaths at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital where Dr Jane Barton was a clinical assistant in the late 1990s. Ten Inquests were heard before Mr Bradley, Deputy Coroner. There was a General Medical Council hearing in the Summer of 2009 following which Dr Barton was found guilty of multiple counts of serious professional misconduct. HM Coroner for Portsmouth, Mr Horsley, intends to conduct an Inquest into the death of Gladys Richards (deceased) who also died under Dr Barton's care at that hospital. It is alleged by her daughter, Gillian Mackenzie, that the late Mrs Richards was the victim of criminal acts.

Previously we re-submitted our Application on 25 June 2009 and we understand that you ought still to have the papers. Subsequently we agreed to keep the Application "on hold for review" pending progress of the Coroner's investigation and the setting of a date for the Inquest.

A Pre-Inquest hearing is now due to take place on 11 May 2011. At this the date for the Inquest hearing is likely to be set to be heard in July 2011.

In the circumstances of this case, we suggest that the need for legal representation is essential. Otherwise, we believe that the hearing will be very challenging for the Coroner to manage and it is likely to yield a considerable amount of varied comment in the press with further unhelpful speculation as to what has taken place within the local Health Services.

We urge you therefore to grant public funding both for the Pre-Inquest hearing and for the Inquest which is now due to take place by the end of July 2011. If funding is not granted promptly then in our view more expenditure is likely ultimately to be incurred because no sustainable resolution to this issue is likely to be achieved.

Please can you return to us as a matter of urgency. We look forward to hearing from you. Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please ask to speak to John White.

Best wishes.

Yours faithfully

**Code A**

**Blake Laphorn**