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 Legal Services Commission
 Special Cases Unit
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BY LETTER AND FAX
FAX NUMBER: Code A

24 March 2009

Dear Sirs

Re: Gosport Inquest
Supplementary Application for "Exceptional Funding"

We write in relation to the hearing started on 18 March 2009 in respect of the Gosport Inquest. At the hearing we were approached by the families in respect of Ruby Lake (deceased) and Robert Wilson (deceased) requesting representation. In relation to Ruby Lake's family, they stated that they had not been aware that any funding might be available. In relation to Robert Wilson's family, Mr Iain Wilson who is his son had intended to do the advocacy but was extremely nervous and requested our help.

We appreciate from previous correspondence that there is no emergency procedure. However we do see considerable benefit to the Coroner if all six families that are attending have the same representatives. We note also that you will require details as to means and separately will forward Means 1 forms. We are advised that : -

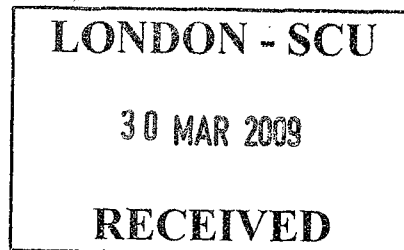
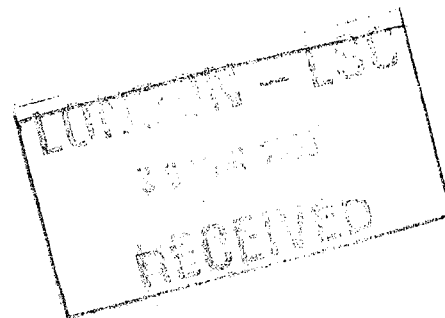
- Mr Iain Wilson is a single parent who is in receipt of family tax credit. He would like to proceed with this application as soon as possible and to instruct counsel to represent him at the hearing; and
- Pauline Robinson and Diane Mussell, daughters of Ruby Lake (deceased) most likely fall outside the usual criteria for financial means, but they could not be described as wealthy. We have taken instructions from them. They do not necessarily want to proceed to have representation but this may have to be re-visited during the remainder of the hearing.

Representation

We asked Counsel, Tom Leeper, if he would be able to cope with the additional workload of another two families, or even one family. Unfortunately because of the very voluminous amount of documentation and breadth of the issues he is already "stretched to the limit" and does not feel he could cope with any additional commitment.

We therefore approached Tom Leeper's Chambers which is Outer Temple Chambers. They have suggested a second Counsel, Mr Patrick Sadd, who would work on the basis of attending for six days to cover the additional work created by adding Mr Wilson; either days if the Wilson and Lake families are represented. Mr Sadd is twenty-four years call and he is available.

We attach a preliminary costing and enclose the applications and means forms in respect of these two families. We are advised that the usual rate for Counsel would be £2,500.00 brief fee for day one plus refreshers of £500.00 per day.



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Our Ref: 516130/000001/JCW/GOSPORT/HP

Your Ref: 68b/jhb/017/09/003/pac

Please can you consider this application and we enclose forms CLS App 1 and Means 1. We look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Should you have any questions concerning the application, please ask to speak to John White.

Kind regards.

Yours faithfully,

Code A

Blake Laphorn

Encs.