



Ministry of JUSTICE

Mr Andrew Bradley
HM Coroner for North East Hampshire
Coroner's Office
Goldings
London Road
Basingstoke
Hampshire
RG21 4AN

Coroners and Burial Division
2nd floor (2.40)
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

Code A

www.justice.gov.uk

8 January 2009

Dear Mr Bradley

OPERATION ROCHESTER – DEATHS AT GOSPORT WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

I refer to your letter of 6 January to **Code A** about concerns you have in connection with the above inquests that you are handling as assistant deputy coroner to Mr Horsley.

Any decision about a public inquiry into the deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital would be a matter for the Department of Health. We have raised your concerns with that Department, but their view remains that given the variety of investigations that have already been undertaken and the powers you have to inquire into all the circumstances leading up to the deaths, the inquests should now proceed – as directed by the Secretary of State under section 15 of the Coroners Act 1988 in seven of the cases.

If on conclusion of the inquests there remain any issues that need further attention, the Department of Health will review the position.

Yours sincerely

Code A

Coroners and Burials Division