



Ministry of JUSTICE

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12 February 2008

Dear Mr Horsley

Operation Rochester: deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital

I am very sorry for the delay in considering your report on the above cases to the Secretary of State, dated 26 November 2007, with which you enclosed the additional copy documents that we requested on 21 August 2007.

The Secretary of State has now considered your report, and he has agreed to the issue of a direction for inquests to be held in respect of the deaths of:

Arthur Denis Brian CUNNINGHAM
 Ruby Josephine Dorothea LAKE
 Geoffrey Michael John PACKMAN
 Leslie Charles PITTOCK
 Helena Frances SERVICE
 Enid Phyllis Dornier SPURGIN
 Robert Caldwell WILSON

Please see enclosed the direction under Section 15, together with a copy for your records.

In your letter of 26 November you raised the question of additional, central funding being made available to Hampshire County Council for these inquests, on the basis that such funding had been provided to Oxfordshire and Wiltshire. Funding has been made available, exceptionally, from within central Government to the Oxfordshire coroner and Wiltshire and Swindon coroner solely because of the singular burden created by the decision to repatriate all overseas military fatalities initially via RAF Brize Norton, and since 1 April 2007 via RAF Lyneham.

I am therefore afraid that we cannot consider providing you or your local authority with any additional funds to deal with these cases.

Yours sincerely

Code A

Current Coroner Policy Team