

Client: Hampshire Primary Care Trust - 4007152-0002
Matter: Gosport Inquests (Joint Instruction)
Date of Attendance: 14 January 2009
Fee Earner: Stuart Knowles

SPK engaged in calling Andrew Bradley the Coroner.

I spoke to the Coroner directly.

1. He said that he had no concerns with Peter Mellor attending the pre-inquest hearing on Monday.
2. He indicated that next Monday would be a timetabling affair and there would be a nightmare of organising the witnesses. I agreed.
3. He then asked if there were any issues which thought should be conducted under any other business. I told him (informally) that at some stage (though not necessarily as early as Monday) that I was intending to forward to him a statement and documentation from the manager of the service to put the management of service into context so that he understood what was happening and also to demonstrate the level and provision of service today in order to avoid a potential Rule 43 letter. I was concerned that that would be published to the Lord Chancellor and would be made public which would be an embarrassment to the NHS.

The Coroner indicated: -

1. He understood why we may want that evidence before him.
2. He wanted to be very careful what evidence he put before the Jury and wanted to limit very closely their considerations to the relevant cause of death and little else.
3. He indicated that he would rather not receive any additional evidence from the NHS because he does not want to examine post event issues and changes. He does not want to promote others to make such an investigation.
4. He indicated that he had already excluded investigation material from the Police and other sources which he was under pressure from the family to accept. He had told family members of his decision and that if they didn't like it they could JR him.

(SPK notes it is now a little clearer as to why the Coroner has indicated that he has written to the MOJ suggesting a public enquiry – it does seem that he is “protecting his back”)

He said that any documents formally disclosed to him he would need to be disclosed to the other parties and he wants to avoid that if at all possible.

5. He did say that if I wanted to run it passed them unofficially he would give a view.

I thanked him for his assistance.

SPK: TT 2 units

AN: 1 unit