

Client: Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust - 3000019-1201
 Matter: Gosport Inquests (Joint Instruction)
 Date of Attendance: 20 March 2009
 Fee Earner: [REDACTED]

Telephone Conference 09/3/09 [REDACTED]

In attendance:

[REDACTED]
 Briony Ballard, Counsel- (BB)

Dr Reid's Evidence

[REDACTED] asked BB if the dates for Dr Reid's evidence was confirmed (31 March and 1 April). He informed BB that Dr Reid was able to attend. BB stated that those dates had been confirmed and that she would inform the coroner accordingly. [REDACTED] also asked BB to confirm with the coroner that Dr Reid was giving evidence in relation to Elsie Devine and Sheila Gregory. BB stated that she would do so. It was noted that Dr Reid could be asked general questions on his involvement with other patients.

BB informed [REDACTED] that Alan Jenkins from the MDU stated that he would provide documentation of the statement given by Dr Reid. [REDACTED] stated that it was important that he received the document so that he could discuss it with Peter Mellor.

PHT/PCT

[REDACTED] stated that he had been informed by Peter Mellor that the PCT now seemed to want to shift the issue of the inquest onto the PHT. [REDACTED] stated that Peter Mellor was keen to speak with BB on the best approach to take. BB provided assurance and stated that there was no need to get worried. She reiterated the fact that the deaths in question had happened over 13 years ago. She stated that the witnesses could only present their view on the staffing levels at the time. BB also said that Mr Jenkins was not criticising those levels; rather, he was using it as evidence to support Dr Barton's actions.

BB did not feel that we should go as far as obtaining evidence from people such as Barbara Robinson. She also stated that Mary Deeks had commented that there was some truth in what was said and in BB's opinion, the less said the better. [REDACTED] agreed with this view. BB stated that it may become necessary to review our position later.

Prescription methods

BB stated that Dr Reid need not get worried. She stated that if he did not check or question Dr Barton's prescriptions at the time then that was his evidence and it could not be changed.

BB also noted that Mr Jenkins was missing the point in that he was confusing anticipatory prescribing and prescribing within a range. She stated that the protocol drafted by Dr Reid refers to anticipatory prescribing. She also stated that Prof Black is not critical of prescribing

within a range to allow increase of analgesia without speaking to a Doctor. She also explained that this could be contrasted with anticipatory prescribing which entailed prescribing medicine that was not necessary in the event that the need would arise. BB confirmed that Dr Reid did not support anticipatory prescribing.

BB noted that Dr Reid did not come on the scene until 1999 when he took over from Dr Tandy as Medical Director. BB stated that this was in our favour as Dr Reid had not been involved in previous years when anticipatory prescribing had been used.

Dr Reid's Position

██████ referred to an email sent by BB and said that this had raised concerns with the PHT as they were worried about how this would reflect on Dr Reid. BB stated that it would be unfair to push blame onto Dr Reid. She also stated that Dr Reid needed to be prepared to respond to the allegations in Gillian Hamblin's statement by Monday.

It was agreed that there would be a telephone conference on 20 March 2009 with Peter Mellor, BB and ██████

████████████████████

- Obtain Dr Reid's statement from MDU
- Obtain Gillian Hamblin's statement of allegations
- Obtain Dr Reid's response in relation to Gillian Hamblin's allegations.
- Organise conference with Dr Reid to address above issues