



**Norman Lamb**

Member of Parliament for North Norfolk  
 Constituency Office: Guyton House, 5 Vicarage Street, North Walsham, Norfolk, NR28 9DQ  
 Telephone: 01692 403752 Fax: 01692 500818

**Code A**

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW CONSTITUENCY OFFICE ADDRESS

Professor Dickon Weir-Hughes  
 Chief Executive  
 Nursing and Midwifery Council  
 23 Portland Place  
 London W18 1PZ

17 November 2009

Please quote our reference and  
 constituent's name in all correspondence  
 Our Ref: 2009/1535/nlbam

Dear Professor Weir-Hughes

**Deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital during 1990s**

I write following a meeting I have had with a number of relatives of those who lost their lives at Gosport War Memorial Hospital back in the 1990s.

You will be aware that the GMC has made Findings of Fact in respect of allegations against Dr Jane Barton. The case has been adjourned until the end of January to determine what, if any, action to take in respect of Dr Jane Barton.

However, you will also be aware that nurses raised concerns not only about Dr Jane Barton but about the conduct of other nurses way back in 1991 and that Hampshire Police referred the case to the Nursing and Midwifery Council as early as 2001 – if not before.

My understanding is that, to date, no investigation has been instigated by the NMC into any allegations involving nurses working at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. I understand that the response that you have given so far is that you will not take any steps until the GMC case has been concluded. However, it seems to me that this is no basis for delaying investigation in respect of other health professionals. The GMC is charged with investigation allegations in respect of doctors. Your council is charged with investigating allegations in respect of nurses. There is absolutely no basis for your investigation to in any way be seen as subordinate to the GMC, given that specific allegations have been made against those registered with you.

NMC CHAIR/CHIEF EXECUTIVE	
23 NOV 2009	
<i>Ian Todd</i>	
Ref:	0708
Action:	

Continued.....

Please quote the above reference in all correspondence with this office.



.2.

I would be most grateful if you could reflect on this matter and respond to me as soon as possible. Are you willing to reconsider your position and instigate an investigation without any further delay? I am sure you will understand that relatives of those who lost their lives at Gosport War Memorial Hospital have lost all confidence in regulatory authorities to take any effective steps to investigate cases involving the death of their loved ones.

Furthermore, I am conscious that some of the nurses against whom allegations have been made, are still working within the NHS or in other health settings. This raises very serious issues about patient safety and your council's responsibility for that.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

**Code A**

Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Health

Please quote the above reference in all correspondence with this office.