



Ministry of JUSTICE

Coroners Unit
5th Floor
Steel House
11 Tothill Street
London
SW1H 9LH

David C Horsley LL.B
HM Coroner for Portsmouth and South East Hampshire
HM Coroner's Office
Room T20
The Guildhall
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
PO1 2AJ

Code A

www.justice.gov.uk

RECEIVED BY
H.M. CORONER
15 FEB 2008

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 Dormer 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

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NICK MATTHEWS
Current Coroner Policy Team



To: David Horsley
Her Majesty's Coroner for Portsmouth and South East Hampshire

WHEREAS You, Her Majesty's Coroner for Portsmouth and South East Hampshire, in pursuance of section 15(1) of the Coroners Act 1988, have reported to the Secretary of State that you have reason to believe that the deaths of

Arthur Denis Brian CUNNINGHAM

Ruby Josephine Dorothea LAKE

Geoffrey Michael John PACKMAN

Leslie Charles PITTOCK

Helena Frances SERVICE

Enid Phyllis Dorner SPURGIN

Robert Caldwell WILSON

have occurred in or near your district, in such circumstances that inquests ought to be held, and that the bodies have been destroyed by fire;

NOW, therefore, in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 15(2) of the Coroners Act 1988, the Secretary of State hereby directs you, the said Coroner, to hold inquests into the said deaths.

Code A

NICK MATTHEWS
Coroners Unit

Ministry of Justice
12 February 2008





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Her Majesty's Coroner for Portsmouth and South East Hampshire

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