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# Ministry of JUSTICE

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[www.justice.gov.uk](http://www.justice.gov.uk)

8 January 2009

Dear Mr Bradley

## **OPERATION ROCHESTER – DEATHS AT GOSPORT WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

I refer to your letter of 6 January to Brian Patterson about concerns you have in connection with the above inquests that you are handling as assistant deputy coroner to Mr Horsley.

Any decision about a public inquiry into the deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital would be a matter for the Department of Health. We have raised your concerns with that Department, but their view remains that given the variety of investigations that have already been undertaken and the powers you have to inquire into all the circumstances leading up to the deaths, the inquests should now proceed – as directed by the Secretary of State under section 15 of the Coroners Act 1988 in seven of the cases.

If on conclusion of the inquests there remain any issues that need further attention, the Department of Health will review the position.

Yours sincerely

NICK MATTHEWS  
Current Coroner Policy Team