

Strictly Private & Confidential

Mr A M Bradley - HM Assistant Deputy Coroner
 Coroner's Office
 Room T20
 The Guildhall
 Guildhall Square
 Portsmouth
 PO1 2AJ

Our ref: TET/GML/00492-15579/7731043 v1
 Your ref:

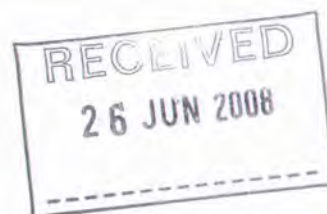
Tamsin Hall
 Assistant Solicitor

Code A

24 June 2008

Dear Mr Bradley

General Medical Council - Dr Jane Barton



Thank you for your letter of 20 June 2008 and for your very helpful comments on the telephone on Friday.

As I indicated to you on the telephone the GMC have decided to postpone the Fitness to Practise Panel Hearing regarding Dr Jane Barton until the Inquest has been held into the deaths of the ten patients (whom you have previously indicated to us) at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. Eight of these patients were due to be considered at the Fitness to Practise Panel Hearing. The GMC has taken legal advice and has decided that on balance it is preferable to await the outcome of the Inquest. The outcome of the Inquest could give rise to further fitness to practise allegations or could lead to the GMC revising the charges that they are proposing to bring and so could be highly relevant to the GMC proceedings. Given the Inquest primacy will also allow Dr Barton to deal with that inquiry and evidence for that process, ahead of her having to finalise her response to the Fitness to Practise Panel.

I have informed the GMC you will be holding a Pre-inquest Hearing on Thursday 14 August 2008. A representative of Field Fisher Waterhouse will definitely attend the meeting and it is likely that somebody from the GMC will also want to attend. We will confirm exactly who will be attending nearer the time.

I do not have any comments regarding the circulation list of interested parties. It would appear that you would have each family represented within that list. With regard to the proposed agenda for the Pre-inquest Hearing my only comment is that Item 4 now no longer needs addressing in the same manner as the GMC hearing has been formally postponed. However, I am aware that some of the family members may wish to discuss this further at the meeting.

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I will be writing to all of the family members and witnesses who have been involved in the GMC investigation this week in order to inform them of our decision.

I would be grateful if you would continue to keep us up to date with any developments with regard to your preparation and please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any assistance.

Yours sincerely

Code A

Tamsin Hall
for Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP

cc: Mr David C Horsley, Coroner's Office, Room T20, The Guildhall, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, P01 2AJ