

Bradley, Andrew

From: Robert Forrest [Code A]
Sent: 19 March 2009 12:49
To: Bradley, Andrew
Subject: Gosport War Memorial Deaths Inquest - In Strict Confidence

Dear Mr Bradley;

One of the family members has forwarded me this extract from transcript of the Inquest.

Tom Leeper TL – responses re Professor Forest ask coroner to consider whether Professor Forest called as live witness. Families feel his evidence would be of significant value.

Coroner – if that is going to feature then needs to be addressed today. Getting hold of Professor Forest may be difficult. Will talk to police later.

Alan Jenkins .AJ – understand Professor Forest retired now. Troubled with him being called blind without knowing what he has seen

BR – Professor Forest report. Understand what said re individuals. Said not reduced to writing but work has put families into category of serious concerns. He is leading toxicologist and shouldn't be dismissed lightly. Grandmother was put in category of serious concern. Was this really done without writing? Contacted Professor Forest and also in contact with coroner (police told coroner no report).

Coroner – ask Professor Black and Professor Wilcock. Not going to consider Professor Forest without a report. Will speak to DS Stephens and see.

AJ – Professor Forest – works out of lab where samples submitted. Gives evidence as to what was happening in body based on samples. Suggest wont have anything to say as never given any samples.

BR – Professor Forest does work from samples. Most of bodies cremated here so couldn't do that. Worked from files and prescriptions and drug charts and levels that would have been in body. Coroner is no report. Professor Forest instructed for another purpose

Alan Jenkins is wrong in a couple of respects.

I often work from documents as well as simply from analytical results.

i have retired from the NHS but am , at least up to May last year, still active as an ADC and in independent practice. I became severely clinically depressed last year and am currently making my mind up whether or not i should retire completely.

There are a couple of points i would raise; the report that my team produced for the Gosport Hospital Enquiry was very much a joint effort. it was never intended to be evidential, but was rather a screening exercise designed to identify those cases that gave rise to particular concern. As i understand it, the plan was for those cases to then be reviewed by other experts who would produce reports on individual cases in detail that the CPS would eventually consider and which, absent prosecution, would be eventually passed on to you. Our team report was much more of an intelligence/screening exercise and was never intended to directly support a prosecution or a coronial inquiry. It was intended to provide a focus for further investigation. I do not even have a physical or electronic copy of the final report. All of our notes were, as i recall, collected by the police after the exercise was completed. On checking this morning, i have no physical or electronic notes. I had no further involvement in the investigation after the screening exercise had been completed.

I understand that the report made by our team is the intellectual property of the police and would be covered by one of the exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act. My understanding is that the police would only disclose it, if an FOI application were to be made, with the consent of all the professionals involved in its production. I suspect that the other members of the team, particularly those who do not regularly get involved with court work, would be less than enthusiastic if asked to consent to the disclosure of the report. I do not know what the attitude of the police would be to a request from you for sight of the report.

If i were to be asked to produce a statement in this matter then I would wish to have

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access to the team report and to the notes made during the exercise by me.

My contact details are below. I would be grateful if they are kept in confidence.

These remarks are intended to be helpful. I hope they have been. If I can be of further assistance then do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Robert Forrest

A R W Forrest LLM, FRCP, FRCPath, CChem, FRSC.
PO Box 4261
Sheffield S10 9BZ
UK

Fax +44(0)114 2667423