

Blake Laphorn
New Kings Court
Tollgate
Chandler's Ford
Eastleigh
Hampshire SO53 3LG

Your Ref: 558203/000001/JCW/RICHARD/HP

27 September 2010

Dear Sirs

Gladys Richards – Inquest:

Further to my letter of 23 September, I enclose a copy of an email sent to me on that date by Mrs MacKenzie. It arrived after my letter had gone in the post.

I have not replied direct to this email because as far as I am aware you are still instructed to act for Mrs MacKenzie in this matter.

I have endeavoured to explain in recent correspondence what the parameters of the Inquest will be. The evidence before me suggests that Mrs Richards was a very elderly lady who suffered a fall in the nursing home where she lived, sustaining a broken hip in the process. She was taken to hospital where the fracture was repaired but she suffered another fall and re-fracture of the hip before her discharge back to the nursing home. Her condition deteriorated and she died. There is nothing in the evidence to suggest that her death was due to a criminal act of any person.

The Inquest will look at the circumstances of the first fall and the treatment she received in respect of it. It will examine the circumstances of the second fall and her subsequent treatment up to the time of her death. As I have said before, I will be instructing an independent medical expert to give me an opinion on the appropriateness of the hospital treatment Mrs Richards received and whether it might have made a significant contribution to her death.

What the Inquest will not do is look at issues unrelated to the matters I must decide upon pursuant to Rule 36 of the Coroners Rules 1984. Nor will it give consideration to matters unsupported by actual evidence. It will certainly not be an examination into the appropriateness of the investigations of the police into Mrs Richards' death nor into any other deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. Except insofar as it relates to her fall in her nursing home it will not look into other aspects of her time there. Neither will it consider the conduct of the GMC disciplinary hearing against Dr Barton nor the conduct of last year's Inquests into other deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

I fully appreciate that Mrs MacKenzie is looking for more from the Inquest but I must reiterate as strongly as I can that it will only work within the foregoing parameters and no further. If she is not satisfied by that, I am afraid she will have to seek another kind of forum to air matters outside the business of the Inquest.

Yours faithfully

David C Horsley

Tel:

Email:

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