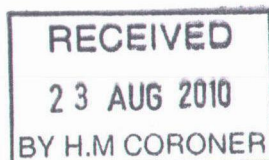




Mr D Horsley
Coroner
Room T20
The Guildhall
The Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
Hampshire
PO1 2AJ



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

DX: 155850 Eastleigh 7

DDI:
T:
F:
E:
Code A
www.blaw.co.uk

18 August 2010

Our Ref: 558203/000001/JCW/RICHARD/JDB

Your Ref:

FAX NO: **Code A**

Dear Sirs

**Our Client
Third Party**

**Mrs Gladys Mabel Richards (deceased)
Gosport War Memorial Hospital**

You may recall that we represent Mrs Gillian Mackenzie, daughter of Gladys Richards (deceased). The late Mrs Richards died at Gosport War Memorial Hospital and was treated by the clinical assistant, Dr Jane Barton. You had decided to proceed with an Inquest in this matter. However, it was apparent that Mrs Mackenzie wished to make allegations to the Police that Mrs Richards was the victim of unlawful killing. Therefore you suspended your Inquiry pending further investigations by the Police and evaluation by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

On 17 August 2010, we received a detailed letter dated 16 August 2010 from Mr Paul Close at the CPS. He has concluded in relation to Mrs Richards' case that having regard to the code for Crown Prosecutors, there was no realistic prospect of conviction in respect of Dr Barton or any other individual for an offence of gross negligence manslaughter. It is therefore our understanding that the CPS do not envisage any further role in the case and in the circumstances, we would like to request that you resume your own Inquiry with a view to setting a hearing date.

We have taken instructions from Mrs Mackenzie. She has asked if you can please consider the following requests:-

1. We request that Mrs Mackenzie's sister Lesley, and the member of the nursing staff, Mr Philip Beade, give witness evidence.
2. Please can you consider the available documentary material and provide disclosure to us as appropriate.
3. We would like in due course to be able to make representations in relation to medical expert evidence.
4. Please can sufficient time be allowed before the hearing takes place so that we can prepare.
5. Previously you kindly stated in writing that you considered in this particular case that it would be appropriate for legal aid funding under "exceptional circumstances". We have since made an application to the Legal Services Commission (LSC) for funding on that basis. However, when the Inquiry was suspended, the LSC also suspended their consideration of the application. It would assist greatly in terms of representation if you were kindly able to confirm again your clear view that exceptional funding would assist you in this case, so that Mrs Mackenzie is represented.

We would be grateful to receive your views as soon as possible and look forward to hearing from you. Naturally, please contact us on any matters that will assist you with your Inquiry.

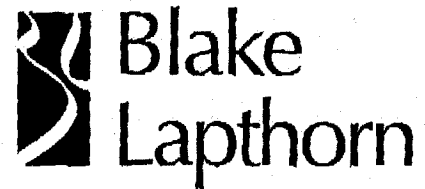
Yours faithfully

Code A

Blake Lapt

18.AUG.2010 13:29

BLAKE LAPHORN 02380362920



Mr D Horsley
 Coroner
 Room T20
 The Guildhall
 The Guildhall Square
 Portsmouth
 Hampshire
 PO1 2AJ

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18 August 2010

Our Ref: 556203/000001/JCW/RICHARD/JDB

Your Ref:

FAX NO: Code A

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Third Party

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Gosport War Memorial Hospital

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18.AUG.2010 13:29

BLAKE LAPTHORN 02380362920

NO.566

P.2/2

We would be grateful to receive your views as soon as possible and look forward to hearing from you. Naturally, please contact us on any matters that will assist you with your Inquiry.

Yours faithfully

Code A

Blake Lapt



**The Coroners Officer
For Portsmouth & South East Hampshire**

Mr J Clarke
Blake Laphorn
New Kings Court
Tollgate
Chandlers Ford
Eastleigh
Hampshire
SO53 3LG

20th August 2010

Dear Sirs,

Re: Mrs Gladys Mabel RICHARDS (Deceased)
Your Ref: 558203/000001/JCW/Richard/JDB

Thank you for your letter of 18th August 2010 received by fax.

HM Coroner is currently out of office on annual leave. Your letter will be placed for his consideration on his return to office on 31st August 2010.

Yours faithfully

Code A

Karen Hamilton
Coroner's Officer
Portsmouth & South East Hampshire