

## THE MEDICAL CENTRE

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Medical Protection Society  
33 Cavendish Square  
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7.05.2002

Dear Adviser

I enclose a copy of a letter I have had recently from our Primary Care Trust.

You may be aware that there is a Practice in Gosport (not a Practice that I am a member of) where a Dr Jane Barton has had difficulties concerning the care of elderly people.

Dr Jane Barton was working as a Clinical Assistant on an Elderly Rehab Ward. There were concerns about inappropriate use of syringe drivers and Diamorphine in patients. I believe Dr Jane Barton has been before the GMC because of this. There was also a big CHI enquiry into the Gosport War Memorial.

For a period of time, myself and my partners had admitting rights to another ward in the War Memorial where we used to care for our unwell, elderly patients and arrange investigations for them. Occasionally we would admit people for terminal care there. Also we would admit people who needed rehabilitation from the local District General Hospital for a short time prior to them going home.

This was on a separate ward than the ward that Dr Jane Barton worked which was a Consultant run ward.

However, there seems to be some extension of the enquiry to myself and my partners, indeed all the Doctors in Gosport who admitted patients to the War Memorial! Apparently I have to be interviewed by the Police as do my partners. I am not aware that I need to speak to them at all.

We withdrew from the "Bed Fund" last year because our workload was getting too onerous so we don't now admit patients to GP beds any more from our Practice. We gave the beds to the Geriatricians who always seem to be short of beds.

If the Police wish to interview me, I would like to know about which patients they are concerned and have someone from your organisation to help and advise me. Since the letter says there are "no suspects", why do they want to interview me anyway?

I am sure I have done nothing wrong other than look after my patients in a GP bed. On what basis can the Police possibly want to interview me? I just happened to have some patients in hospital in which a Doctor has been investigated. Investigation into what Dr Jane Barton did or did not do is nothing to do with me.

I look forward to hearing your advice and I would welcome your support over this amazing situation which has arisen in Gosport.

I am particularly annoyed as a lot of the information about Dr Jane Barton and what happened on the ward where she worked has got into the National papers and it has somewhat tainted the impression that other Doctors have of Gosport and it may be difficult for us to recruit partners as we retire.

I suppose all this has happened in the wake of Shipman and now all the Gosport GPs have got caught up in the wash from this incident which really only concerned one GP in Gosport.

Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely

**Code A**

Dr Derek NORTH  
Membership No. 107452

*back*

Fareham and Gosport  
Primary Care Trust

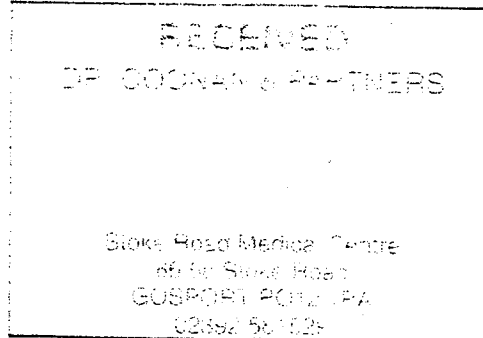


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**Private and Confidential**

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28 April 2003

Dear Doctor North

We thought it might be helpful to update you on the Hampshire Constabulary investigation into allegations that some elderly patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital have been administered inappropriate pain relief resulting in the premature death of some patients.

We have been advised that Hampshire Constabulary Officers will be contacting all staff and GPs who have worked at Gosport War Memorial since 1988 as an employee of the Trust, to ask some general questions about patient care and the use of diamorphine. The police have stated that there are no suspects in this group of interviews and that they will not be conducting interviews on tape or under caution.

We felt that it would be helpful to advise you of this process, so that you were aware of the background. The police did not need to inform us, but it is hoped that being forewarned may be reassuring.

We have contacted Bob Button at the LMC who will provide any advice or help should you feel you need to contact him.

Please do not hesitate in contacting either of us should you feel we could be of any help.

Yours sincerely

**Code A**

Gordon Sommerville  
Chair, PEC Board

**Code A**

Margaret Smith  
Head of Primary Care