

Message

From: Code A

Sent:

To:

Subject: Fw: To be aware: publication of Baker report - call with MS(CS) Monday

Attachments: GWMHsecondsubpublicinquiry9Aug.docx.docx; TIMELINE FOR RELEASE OF BAKER REPORT ON DEATHS AT GOSPORT HOSPITAL.docx.docx; Publication of the Baker Report.docx

From: Code A

Sent: Friday, August 09, 2013 02:19 PM GMT Standard Time

To: O'Brien, Una

Cc: Code A

Subject: To be aware: publication of Baker report - call with MS(CS) Monday

Una

To update you, Norman has confirmed that he would still like to speak on Monday about this. We have put a slot in the diary for 16:30 – 17:00. Attached is the note from Gerard and a timeline that he sent through last week at Norman's request.

Norman has now received the submission promised from Gerard with further advice on a public inquiry – this is also attached. We'll also forward on any feedback from Norman to this – he seems to be generally in a better place on it, but is likely to still be in favour of a public inquiry.

Thanks

Mel



Melanie Jones

Private Secretary to the Permanent Secretary

Department of Health, 79 Whitehall, SW1A 2NS

E: melanie.jones@dh.gsi.gov.uk Tel: Code A BB: Code A

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From: Jones, Melanie
Sent: 07 August 2013 15:45
To: O'Brien, Una
Subject: RE: URGENT: Gosport War Memorial Hospital: publication of Prof Baker's report TOMORROW (Fri)

Una

Following this exchange with Norman last week, I have received some more information from Gerard on the questions you raised:

1. Administrative problems
2. Options for remediating concerns

Code B

4. What is the advice in relation to a Public Inquiry

I have compiled this into the attached – and included a section specifically on handling in the Private Office following my conversation with Diana last week.

I am in touch with Norman's office – they are waiting to send the submission Gerard is currently preparing in relation to holding a public inquiry. This should be with them by the end of the week. I have asked them to check if Norman feels that he would still like to discuss the issue with you.

Please do let me know if any further background information would be helpful.

Many thanks

Code A



Department
of Health

Code A

Private Secretary to the Permanent Secretary

Department of Health, 79 Whitehall, SW1A 2NS

E: **Code A**

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From: **Code A**

Sent: 02 August 2013 20:13

To: O'Brien, Una

Subject: RE: URGENT: Gosport War Memorial Hospital: publication of Prof Baker's report TOMORROW (Fri)

Many thanks. We actually return on 8/8 so happy to talk from 9/8 onwards.

Best, Norman

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: O'Brien, Una

Sent: Friday, August 02, 2013 08:06 PM GMT Standard Time

To: **Code A**

Cc: **Code A**

Subject: RE: URGENT: Gosport War Memorial Hospital: publication of Prof Baker's report TOMORROW (Fri)

Dear Norman

Una has asked me to pass on a message to say that, having been made aware of your emails and serious concerns, she is now asking a number of questions and is personally involved with the matter.

I understand you are back in the country w/c 12 August and this could be discussed then if helpful.

Kind regards,

Code A

(on behalf of)



Una O'Brien

Permanent Secretary

From: **Code A**

Sent: 02 August 2013 17:50

To: Jones, Melanie

Subject: FW: URGENT: Gosport War Memorial Hospital: publication of Prof Baker's report TOMORROW (Fri)

Second email Norman asked to be flagged to Una

Best wishes,

Code A



Code A

Private Secretary to Norman Lamb MP

Minister of State for Care and Support

Department of Health, 79 Whitehall, SW1A 2NS

Code A

**** PLEASE NOTE THE NEW BOX DEADLINE FOR MS(CS) IS 12 NOON MON-THURS ****
SUBMISSIONS SENT AFTER THIS TIME, OR ON FRIDAYS, WILL NOT REACH THE MINISTER'S BOX.

From: Code A
Sent: 02 August 2013 00:42
To: Code A
Subject: RE: URGENT: Gosport War Memorial Hospital: publication of Prof Baker's report TOMORROW (Fri)

I have now read the conclusions of the report and the sub.

The conclusions are extremely serious. Essentially, he concludes that it is possible that some patients might have lived/recovered but for the inappropriate use of opiates.

This passage is particularly damning:

Consequently, it is difficult not to conclude that some patients were given opiates should have received other treatment. Only a detailed investigation of individual cases, in which the accounts of witnesses as well as documentary evidence are considered, can conclude whether lives were shortened by the almost routine use of opiates before death, but I would expect such case by case investigations to conclude that in some cases, the early resort to opiates will be found to have shortened life. I would also expect that in a smaller number of cases, the practice will be found to have shortened the lives of people who would have had a good chance of surviving to be discharged from hospital.

If I was a relative I would regard that as pretty serious - ie that my mum has been killed!

Can officials also confirm specifically whether recommendation 2 from the report has been fully acted upon?

I don't think the press notice is anywhere near sufficient. No expression of regret, remorse for this awful treatment.

I think it should be in the name of a minister. I think the families who have campaigned on this should be invited in to the department to meet a minister. I am assuming that this is within my portfolio as an issue of end of life care - or am I wrong?

I am amazed that the sub fails to mention that I was one of the most prominent campaigners on this when I was in opposition!

I would also like a timeline of what has happened since April. Why has it taken so long to get to this point? Was it unavoidable for this to all happen when I was away on holiday - given that officials knew of my strong interest? I have to say that I feel that I have been treated appallingly and would like Una made aware of my very serious concern.

Thanks a lot,

Norman

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Code A

Sent: Thursday, August 01, 2013 09:16 PM GMT Standard Time

To: Code A

Subject: URGENT: Gosport War Memorial Hospital: publication of Prof Baker's report TOMORROW (Fri)

Norman,

Apologies for emailing while you're away, but I wanted to make you aware that the Department will now be making public tomorrow (Fri 2nd) Professor Richard Baker's report 'Review of Deaths of Patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital between 1998 and 2000'.

I attach the report, along with an accompanying submission setting out the background, the reasons why the report has not been published previously and proposals for handling of publication. (In summary, the reasons for not having published earlier are that publication was delayed pending the completion of investigations by the police and the coroner, the last of which concluded in April this year, and since then officials have been doing the necessary checks regarding confidentiality and data protection)

Code B

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