



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt. Rev James Jones KBE
Chair of the Gosport Independent Panel
Wellington House
133 -155 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 8UG

12 October 2018

Dear Bishop James,

Thank you for your time in meeting me at my House of Commons office on the 17th July following the publication of the Panel's report on the 20th June. As discussed at the meeting you suggested that I write a letter to be read out at your meeting on the 16th October - I would therefore be most grateful if you could do so.

The Panel's report made for chilling reading with as many as 654 people having their lives unjustifiably shortened. For the families and loved ones I can't even begin to imagine the pain this whole process has caused, with years of struggle, delay and frustration.

I hope there is at least some comfort in having at last arrived at the truth, we can now move forward and take action.

The report not only points the finger at individuals it also exposes the widespread systemic failure at the heart of health, police and coroner services during this period. We must look to build on changes already taking place within the culture of the NHS to ensure that patient safety is paramount and that there is room to challenge poor practice. It is haunting that there was an opportunity to have the Hospital investigated and exposed in the early nineties saving many lives, but whistleblowers were ignored.

To that end I have met with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matthew Hancock MP to push for changes and protections for whistleblowers in the health sector. Whistleblowing is important in any sector, but it takes on an added urgency in health where consequences can be fatal. The Secretary of State will shortly be making a statement to Parliament and publishing his response to the Independent Panel.

I am also meeting shortly with the Home Secretary and have written to the Attorney General's office to be kept informed of progress.



As the local MP I have been unable to actively contact my constituents who are affected by this due to data protection rules, unless they've contacted me I have no way of finding out who they are. My team and I stand ready to offer help and support to any residents of the Gosport constituency, please do encourage them to get in touch with me.

I would like to put on record my thanks to my constituent Ian Wilson who visited me shortly after I was first elected back in 2010. It was Ian who first alerted me to this issue, and his concerns regarding the death of his dad. It was Ian who persuaded me to help campaign for access to the information that families had so long fought for. Ian sadly passed away before the Panel had concluded their work, but his father's name was the first one I looked for in the report. The Panel concluded that Mr Wilson's life had indeed been shortened by the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. It was without doubt the bravery, the persistence and the dedication of Ian, and others that finally brought this awful truth to light.

I would also like to offer my heartfelt thanks to the Panel for the thoroughness of their investigations and to the Bishop for his strong, sensitive and determined leadership. The victims and their families deserved no less.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Caroline Dinenage".

Caroline Dinenage MP