



## Department of Health

10 March 2016

FOI-1017290

Dear Ms Reeves,

Thank you for your request of 11 February 2016 under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). Your exact request was:

*"Freedom of Information request - Medical file responsibility after death Gosport War Memorial Hospital*

*1. Please inform me who was responsible for medical files and it's safe keeping within the GWMH after death from the year 1999?*

*2. Where are the Medical files stored immediately after death of a patient at GWMH?*

*3. Where are medical files placed before they are destroyed, is it DoH or PHCT/NHS Hampshire?*

*5. Are the GWMH permitted to send a medical file to other Public Bodies without the knowledge or permission of the next of kin?"*

Using the same numbering as your questions, our response is as follows:

### Questions 1 to 3

The Department does not hold information relating to your request, on the basis that we have interpreted your questions as referring to information about the maintenance and storage of records which is specific to Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust (of which Gosport War Memorial Hospital is a part) and can only be answered by the Trust itself.

Contact details for the Trust are:

Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust,  
Tatchbury Mount,  
Calmore,  
Southampton,  
SO40 2RZ

Email: [FOI@southernhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@southernhealth.nhs.uk)

### Question 5

Access to the records of deceased patients is governed by the Access to Health Records Act 1990, which sets out the circumstances whereby a deceased person's medical records can be disclosed.

If you have any queries about this email, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Head of the Freedom of Information Team  
Department of Health  
Room 520  
Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2NS

Email: [freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Department. The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Dorothy Crowe

Freedom of Information Officer  
Department of Health

[freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk)