

The Rt. Hon. Alan Milburn MP
Secretary of State for Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

The Rt. Hon. David Blunkett MP
Secretary of State for Home Affairs
Queen Anne's Gate
London
SW1H 9AT

10 June 2003

Dear Secretaries of State,

Shipman Inquiry – Second Report

As you know, in January 2001, I was appointed to conduct an Inquiry into the issues arising from the conviction of Harold Shipman, a general medical practitioner, for the murder of fifteen of his patients. In July 2002, I published my First Report, dealing with the extent of Shipman's unlawful activities.

I now submit my Second Report, which deals with the investigation conducted by the Greater Manchester Police in March and April 1998, five months before Shipman was arrested. That investigation, which followed a report made by a general practitioner who suspected that Shipman might be killing his patients, failed to uncover any evidence that he was doing so. This Report examines the conduct of the investigation and the reasons why it failed to uncover evidence that was there to be found. I have concluded that the lives of three of Shipman's patients would probably have been saved if the investigation had been properly conducted and supervised.

Yours sincerely,
Janet Smith

Janet Smith