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After years of asking for more police involvement - officers from Hampshire Police today agreed to meet the legal team representing the families.

"We hope that in due cause there will be a full investigation and enquiry. if it's appropriate for the Government to set up and enquiry into what has happened we will call for that in due cause. But at this stage it's a matter of establishing the extent of the problems at the hospital."

Gladys Richards died three years ago. But her daughter was very disappointed by the initial Police investigation.

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"We were told they would investigate it, and they would have an independent report. About 3 or 4 weeks later we were told there was insufficient evidence. My sister made a complaint to the Police Authority because neither myself or my sister had been interviewed or any statement taken at that time."

Families first went to the **Police** in 1999.

They also complained to the **Health Authority, the General Medical Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council.**

Eventually a **Clinical Audit** was ordered - the results due next year.

Families then contacted **solicitors**, looking for a full legal investigation.

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And today the **Police** say they will interview all families who've raised concerns.

Alice Wilkie died in 1999. Her family asked the Police to investigate. But they were never contacted back for an interview.

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"We've tried to get the Police involved at every stage. I'd have to say the Police are one of the agencies we've had some frustration with. Hopefully now we can find out what's going on."

The Police told us

"Operation Rochester is an on-going investigation. A number of people have come forward expressing concern at the treatment of family members at the hospital. We are keen to hear from anyone with information which may assist this investigation."

The families are hoping this will lead to a public inquiry.

AP for MT