

## More families contact hospital hotline



Hampshire police investigated the deaths

Up to 50 more families have contacted a helpline with concerns over the treatment of relatives at a Hampshire hospital.

The Gosport War Memorial Hospital is the subject of an investigation by the Department of Health.

News of the contact with more families was given at a meeting organised by solicitors Alexander Harris, who played a major role in the Harold Shipman inquiry,

The hospital has been at the centre of allegations over the use of the painkiller diamorphine.

Hampshire police investigated the deaths of a number of elderly patients in the 1990s.

A file was sent to the Crown Prosecution Service but no action was taken.

On Monday, Detective Chief Superintendent Steve Watts said: "We can confirm that a number of people have come forward following recent media appeals to express concern at the treatment of family members at the hospital."

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”  
Solicitors Alexander  
Harris

### Pain relief

In a statement, Alexander Harris said the families wanted a proper investigation and inquiry into events at the hospital.

It said: "All but one of those present (at the meeting) had lost a loved one taken unexpectedly and suddenly ill while undergoing rehabilitation or other treatment in one of three wards at the hospital.

"Many of these had died after being given diamorphine for relief of alleged pain.

"A number of those who died were only a short time earlier on the road to recovery and expected to be soon well enough to be discharged home."

The Department of Health investigation into the deaths is not expected to be completed until next year.