

BBC Home

Search

Explore the BBC

 UK version
  International version | About the versions

[Low graphics](#) | [Accessibility help](#)


LIVE L BBC NEWS CHANNEL

**News services**  
 Your news when you want it

[News Front Page](#)
[World](#)
[UK](#)
[England](#)
[Northern Ireland](#)
[Scotland](#)
[Wales](#)
[Business](#)
[Politics](#)
[Health](#)
[Education](#)
[Science/Nature](#)
[Technology](#)
[Entertainment](#)
[Also in the news](#)
[Video and Audio](#)
[Have Your Say](#)
[Magazine](#)
[In Pictures](#)
[Country Profiles](#)
[Special Reports](#)
**RELATED BBC SITES**
[SPORT](#)
[WEATHER](#)
[CBBC NEWSROUND](#)
[ON THIS DAY](#)
[EDITORS' BLOG](#)

Last Updated: Friday, 21 October 2005, 19:40 GMT 20:40 UK

E-mail this to a friend

Printable version

## Apology over hospital death probe

**Police watchdogs have apologised for their handling of concerns over a force's investigation into allegations of unlawful killing at a hospital.**

Six people complained in 2002 about an investigation by Hampshire Police into care at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) inherited the case from the Police Complaints Authority when it was set up on 1 April 2004.

The IPCC has admitted there were problems with the case's handling.

IPCC deputy chair John Wadham said: "The usual high standards that the commission has set itself have not been applied in this case and I wish to publicly apologise to the complainants for that.

"There have been a number of problems with the way that this case has been handled, not least the unacceptable length of time it has taken.

**“ We will assure the complainants that the IPCC will now move quickly to deal with their complaints ”**

John Wadham, IPCC deputy chair

"I have also today offered to meet all the complainants.

"We will assure the complainants that the IPCC will now move quickly to deal with their complaints."

Government inspectors strongly criticised Gosport War Memorial Hospital in 2002 in a review of services prompted by complaints from the families of nine patients who died at the hospital.

### Mistreatment claim

The report, published by the Commission for Health Improvement, criticised Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust - the authority which ran the hospital until April that year - for excessive use of pain-relieving and sedative drugs.

A police investigation was launched into allegations of unlawful killing, particularly in the case of 91-year-old Gladys Richards, whose daughter, Gillian Mackenzie, claimed she died as a result of mistreatment at the hospital.

Hampshire Police conducted two investigations, the first of which is the subject of the complaints to the IPCC.

The second investigation has seen files passed to the Crown Prosecution Service.



Government inspectors strongly criticised the hospital in 2002



**BBC Hampshire**  
 Information and features on the BBC Hampshire website

### SEE ALSO:

Hospital deaths files scrutinised  
 14 Feb 05 | Hampshire

Elderly drugs deaths 'a scandal'  
 11 Feb 03 | Health

Police investigate hospital deaths  
 07 Nov 02 | England

More families contact hospital hotline  
 04 Nov 02 | England

### RELATED INTERNET LINKS:

[Independent Police Complaints Commission](#)

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites


### TOP HAMPSHIRE STORIES


[Evacuation over 'suspicious' fire](#)

[Man jailed over fatal hit-and-run](#)

[Iron man breaks endurance record](#)

| [News feeds](#)

 E-mail this to a friend

 Printable version

**PRODUCTS AND SERVICES**

**E-mail news   Mobiles   Alerts   News feeds   Interactive TV   Podcasts**

MMVIII

Most Popular Now | 74,300 people are reading stories on the site right now.

[Back to top ^^](#)

[Help](#) | [Privacy and cookies policy](#) | [News sources](#) | [About the BBC](#) | [Contact us](#)