

Gladys Richards' inquest – April 2013

Chief Quality Officer at NHS Fareham & Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Julia Barton, said: "The NHS has always fully supported the coroner's inquests into 11 deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital in the late 1990s, and we extend our sympathies to the family of Mrs Gladys Richards. Inquests into 10 other deaths were held in 2009.

"We will fully review the implications of today's verdict, delivered after a lengthy and thorough inquest into the circumstances of Mrs Richards' death nearly 15 years ago.

"On behalf of the NHS I would like to take this opportunity to apologise to Mrs Richards' family for any treatment or care which the coroner found contributed to her death in 1998.

Note: this paragraph will depend on the verdict itself.

"Since the late 1990s the systems and policies in place at Gosport War Memorial Hospital have undergone a complete overhaul, in line with developments in modern clinical practice. All NHS organisations have risk management systems and clinical audit departments to maintain a comprehensive and strict adherence to modern clinical governance standards.

"NHS Fareham & Gosport CCG took over responsibility for commissioning healthcare for residents of the two towns on 1 April this year. It will ensure that it receives accurate and timely information about the performance of its providers, and is continuing the regular monitoring of the quality of care that patients receive at the hospital, together with quality review meetings with the Trusts whose staff provide that care.

"The hospital also has a robust concerns and complaints procedure in place, which is readily accessible by patients and their families.

"I can reassure people that the issues highlighted by this inquest, and those held in 2009, have been fully addressed."