

Hospital deaths: MP's inquiry call

Shadow health minister backs demands by bereaved families

A TOP MP is to demand the government launches a public inquiry into the deaths of elderly patients at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

Lib Dem shadow health minister Norman Lamb yesterday met families of those who died at the Bury Road hospital during the 1990s. He said: 'Having listened to what the relatives have had to say, I'm absolutely clear in my own mind that there is a case to answer here.'

'I am therefore going to push for a public inquiry so that all

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the facts can be put on the table.'

The grieving families have been calling for an inquiry into their loved ones' deaths.

But Mr Lamb said 'systematic failures' had prevented them from getting justice.

'The statutory bodies from the hospital itself, Hampshire police, the Crown Prosecution Service and the General Medical Council, appear to have singularly failed to bring justice to the relatives of the victims who died at Gosport War Memorial Hospital all those years ago,' he said.

'I am so appalled by what has happened. I am also considering raising questions in the House of Commons.'

The relatives say the meeting with Mr Lamb at Westminster

has given them hope.

Gillian Mackenzie, whose 91-year-old mother Gladys Richards died at the hospital in 1998, said: 'We are so pleased with how the meeting went. It was very encouraging.'

'I feel very positive about it now and I think finally we have got someone who can really help us.'

'Perhaps now with Mr Lamb's help we can get this public inquiry.'

The relatives are also calling for a criminal prosecution to be brought against Dr Jane Barton, the clinical assistant in charge of the day-to-day running of Dryad and Daedalus wards where the patients died.

Mr Lamb has said he will also back this and will be writing to Hampshire Constabulary and demanding they move forward with their latest inquiry, so the CPS can pursue a prosecution.

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