

# News



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### The News TODAY

## Whitehall interest in hospital probe

HEALTH ministers are keeping a close eye on the unfolding drama at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital, it emerged today.  
The Department of Health declines to comment officially on an investigation into the alleged unlawful killing of an elderly patient at the hospital.  
But senior sources have revealed that the case is being monitored at the highest levels of the department.

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Stocky's Home



OLD ANTHONY STOCKWELL  
BORN 26-1-1915  
KILLED ON THE ROAD  
13-3-2000  
FROM OUR SIGHT BUT NEVER FROM OUR MEMORIES

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## SPORT

## HOSPITAL INVESTIGATION: Alleged unlawful killing examined by ministers



The War Memorial Hospital at Gosport – at the hub of an unfolding drama after the death of a woman

# Suspicious death is under microscope

by Brian Brady  
The News

**HEALTH ministers are keeping a close eye on the unfolding drama at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital, it emerged today.**

The Department of Health is refusing to comment officially on an investigation into the alleged unlawful killing of an elderly patient at the hospital until the Crown Prosecution Service has completed its findings.

But senior sources disclosed the case is being tracked at the highest levels – and has already been brought to the attention of health secretary Alan Milburn's office.

The News revealed yesterday that the case centres on care the 91-year-old



Peter Viggers

## MP passes papers on to colleague

GOSPORT MP Peter Viggers has passed papers on the case to his Eastbourne colleague Nigel Waterson.

The file had been given to Mr Viggers by Gillian Mackenzie, the daughter of the 91-year-old who is at the centre of the death probe.

But he has passed them on to Mrs

Mackenzie's constituency MP, saying that he was satisfied that it was being properly handled by the police and by the Portsmouth HealthCare (NHS) Trust.

'I would only become involved if there was a breakdown of the normal authorities,' said Mr Viggers.

woman received at the hospital days before she died there in August 1998. The police investigation was launched after a complaint by her family.

DoH officials are keen to avoid comments which could be seen as prejudicing the probe.

But a source told The News: 'The department is keeping a very tight watching brief on this, to see the outcome of the CPS investigation.

'If action needs to be taken as a result of the investigation they will not hesitate to do that.'

Detectives working on the inquiry have interviewed a number of medical personnel at the hospital. They say no-one was arrested or questioned under caution.

Lawyers are now deciding whether there is sufficient evidence to pursue a prosecution for alleged unlawful killing.

If the go-ahead is given the deaths of as many as 600 elderly people could be re-examined.

A spokesman for Mr Milburn insisted that the investigation had to be allowed to run its course.

He said: 'This case is being investigated by the CPS so there is nothing further we can say about it at this time.'

'Once they have told us what they intend to do, we will be able to say more.'