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**INVESTIGATION:** Bereaved relatives unhappy with thoroughness of police probe into concerns about community hospital

# Anger over deaths inquiry

**POLICE** have now been sent seven formal complaints about their investigation into deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

The accusations are from relatives who believed officers have not investigated thoroughly enough the deaths of elderly people at the hospital.

*The News* revealed in April that five families were making formal complaints about the Hampshire force's inquiry last year into the series of deaths but now the num-

by **Richard Whitehouse**  
The News

ber has risen by two. The saga began more than a year ago with revelations that police were investigating the death of Gladys Richards, 91, from Lee-on-the-Solent.

It followed complaints by her daughter Gillian Mackenzie about the standard of care she had received and levels of sedative drugs administered. That case led to around a dozen other relatives contacting police with similar concerns over deaths at the hospital.

Police referred the case of Mrs

Richards to the Crown Prosecution Service but no grounds for court action were found. Police looked into other cases but decided not to take them further.

But it was that investigation that upset some of the relatives, who said it had not been thorough. Statements from the seven who have formally complained will now be considered by senior officers, who will decide whether any action should be taken against officers involved in the original investigation. Families claim police did not read all rele-

vant medical reports, nor interview all the relatives, when they looked into the cases.

Some of the families have also sent files to the General Medical Council (GMC) for consideration.

Portsmouth-based Chief Superintendent Dan Clacher, who is leading the investigation into the complaints against the police, was unavailable for comment.

On Wednesday next week health watchdog the Commission for Health Improvement (CHI) is due to publish the findings of its investigation into the complaints.

## Care Trust lends an ear

GOSPORT and Fareham Primary Care Trust has invited those who have made complaints about their relatives' care to talk to them about it.

Chief executive Ian Piper said: 'The trust is aware that the investigations and complaints have highlighted areas where lessons can be learned. Consequently over the

past three years a number of aspects of medical and nursing practice have been enhanced to improve the quality of services provided to patients.

'These have included developing policies, enhancing staffing levels and undertaking training, with the aim of continuously improving the quality of care provided.'

## Caring neighbour disarms knifeman

by **Bill Young**  
The News

**CARING** neighbour Daniel James helped a young woman

## The New Peugeot Boxer Your Right Hand Van