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POLICE DEATH PROBE UNDER FIRE

A GRIEVING daughter has lodged a formal complaint into how police investigated her mother's death.

Alice Wilkie went into Gosport's War Memorial Hospital for rehabilitation but died in the hospital. Her death was one of

nine probed by police after a string of complaints but no action was taken.

Now the daughter of a second patient is set to join Mrs Wilkie's daughter in lodging a complaint.

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INQUIRY: Relatives hits out over no prosecutions after checks into nine deaths

Families attack police probe into deaths at hospital

by Steve Bone
and Richard Whitehouse
The News

RELATIVES of two women who died at the Gosport hospital where the care of elderly patients is being probed are making formal complaints about the police inquiry into her death.

The deaths of Alice Wilkie, 82, and Gladys Richards, 91, are among nine cases at the War Memorial Hospital that were investigated by police.

The Crown Prosecution said there had not been the evidence to prosecute any medical staff although police referred the complaints to health watchdog the Commission for Health Improvement (CHI).

But the patients' families claim the deaths, in 1998, have not been adequately looked into by police.



Pensioner died after hip surgery

THE CASE of Gladys Richards sparked a flurry of complaints over the care given to elderly patients at the War Memorial.

The 91-year-old died at the hospital in 1998 after being sent there to recuperate following a successful hip replacement

operation at Royal Hospital Haslar.

Her daughter Gillian Mackenzie, 68, was unhappy with the treatment her mother received.

Health bosses apologised to Mrs Mackenzie, but insisted the only option open to them had been to keep her pain-free until she died.

Today's news is the latest twist in a long-running saga first highlighted by *The News* in April last year.

Then we revealed police were probing the death of Lee-on-the-Solent pensioner Gladys Richards after a complaint by her daughter.

Mrs Richards died in the War Memorial after going in to recuperate following a successful hip operation at the Royal Hospital Haslar.

Mrs Wilkie's daughter Marilyn Jackson has already sent a formal complaint to Hampshire police chiefs claiming

officers did not investigate her mother's death thoroughly enough.

And Mrs Richards' daughter said she planned to make a similar complaint.

Mrs Wilkie, who lived in Gosport, went into the War Memorial Hospital for rehabilitation and assessment following a minor infection.

Her daughter said relatives later found her notes marked with DNR - which stands for do not resuscitate - and claimed she was given high doses of painkilling drugs.

Mrs Jackson said she realised nothing would bring her mother back, but the family wanted answers.

'She might have had a few more months, she might have had a few years, she might not have - we just don't know.'

On Mrs Wilkie's death certificate, pneumonia was given as the cause of death.

Mrs Mackenzie, who lives in East Sussex and plans to formally complain to police chiefs soon, said: 'The police just haven't looked at these cases thoroughly enough.'