

"Dr Barton would give morphine not just for the pain. She also thought it would improve their wellbeing even if it hastened their deaths."

For now Dr Barton is still practising as a GP at the Forton Medical Centre in Gosport. She is subject to a temporary ban imposed by the GMC on prescribing the painkiller diamorphine.

The Medical Defence Union, which is representing Dr Barton, said the GP did not wish to comment on the ongoing case. A spokeswoman pointed out that none of the nurses who gave evidence at the GMC inquiry was critical of the doctor's care of patients while consultants had "never expressed concern about her treatment and working practices".

Following last April's inquest into 10 deaths at Gosport – which found that in five cases patients had died after being given excessive doses of morphine – Dr Barton said: "I am unable to make any substantial comment about matters given my duty of confidence. I can say though that I have always acted with care, concern and compassion towards my patients."

Hampshire police said: "Hampshire constabulary does not feel that it would be appropriate to comment while the GMC hearing is ongoing."

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